

DISTRICT 8 - LPA 1963 - 2002

Creator: Lee and/or Mary Kitchens

LPS08196302

LEE KITCHENS 1930 – 2003
SCRAPBOOK 1963 to 2002

Lee Kitchens was born in Fort Worth, Texas where he resided until he was twenty-one years old. His father worked in the livestock business and his mother was a homemaker. He had one sibling, a sister, who was six years younger.

Lee enrolled at Texas Christina University, located in Fort Worth, and entered a pre-engineering program. After two years, when he was twenty-one, he enrolled in Southern Methodist University, which was located in Dallas, Texas. SMU had a cooperative education program in engineering which rotated classroom training for two months with on the job experience for two months.

While at SMU Lee met his future wife Mary Belle Perryman who was attending Texas Christian Women's University. They were married in 1955. After SMU Lee began work at Texas Instruments where he remained for 38 years.

In 1960 Lee heard about Billy Barty's appearance on the Art Linkletter Show where Billy announced that a National Convention of Little People would be held in November, at the Hacienda Hotel, in Las Vegas, Nevada. By this time Lee and Mary had adopted their son Allen, whom they thought was short statured, and thinking the experience would be good for their son they attended the Las Vegas convention.

1960 was the organizational year for LPA. Attendees at the conference wrote and approved By-Laws, elected a new set of officers, and developed a national organization based on Fourteen Districts each of which included one or more of the fifty states in America. Lee, being the only Texan in attendance, was appointed the first Director of District 8 which consisted of the states of Texas and Louisiana. When he and Mary returned from the convention they immediately began holding gatherings of Little People in their home and they organized events in communities Texas and Louisiana.

The first two items in the scrapbook show a photo of Lees Father, Clay Kitchens, and a news items recounts his father being burned in an accidental fire when he

was age twenty-eight. The remaining items in the scrapbook recount the Kitchens family and their activities connected to LPA and some of their community activities. Both Lee and Mary were pilots and they flew from their home in Texas to many LPA events. Lee's election as President of LPA in 1964 is recounted and there is extensive coverage of the 1964 conference which was held in Phoenix, Arizona.

The bulk of the items in the Scrapbook occur in the time period 1963 to 1968. Poignantly, the final item in the scrapbook is the obituary of Mary Belle Kitchens who did in 1982.

Explosion Burns Man Seriously

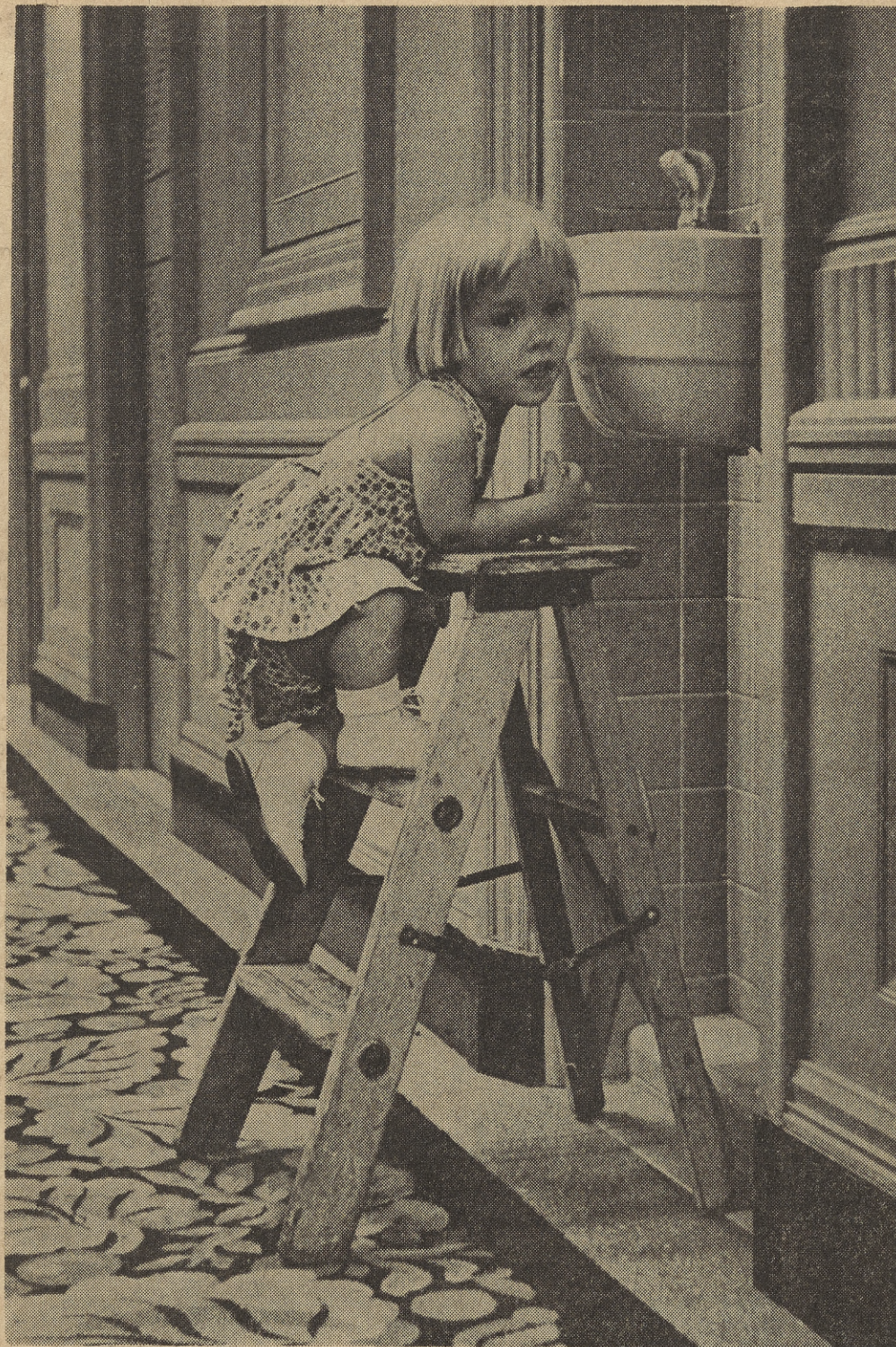
Clay Kitchens, 28, 1104 Northwest Fifteenth Street, was burned seriously Tuesday about 7:30 a. m., when an oil stove exploded in a sheep shed at the Fort Worth Stockyards, igniting Kitchens' clothing.

He was taken to All Saints Hospital in a Shannon's ambulance. Attendants reported Kitchens' condition as critical. His body was badly burned from the waist down.

Kitchens is an employe of the John Clay Commission Company. The flames set the sheep shed on fire, but the blaze was extinguished before any damage was done.



NUMBER 1,500,000—This is the lamb that marked the million-and-a-half mark in Fort Worth sales this year, the first time in history that this many lambs had been sold at one point in Texas and the climax of a year of record-smashing by Texas sheep men as they have redoubled their efforts to provide meat and clothing for Allied soldiers. Kneeling by the lamb are Joe Enderby, the shipper, and Clay Kitchens, who sold it for \$13.50 per hundredweight. Standing are Harry Butz, head of Swift & Company's sheep buying department; Ben Newby of the Fort Worth Stockyards Company, and, at right, Ray Kitchens of San Angelo.



Tribune Photo by Thomas DeFeo

CLIMB FOR WATER—Sandra Kitchens 3, a "little little," uses one of the step-ladders placed at drinking fountains and counters at Hotel Kirkwood for the national Little People of America convention there this week. Sandra and her 7-year-old brother Alan are the adopted children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex., delegates to the convention. "Little littles" are children who will not grow larger than the organization's height limit for members of four feet 10 inches tall. Sandra's mother is chairman of an accelerated adoption program sponsored by the organization as a go-between for little people and adoption agencies.

Links Little Folks' Woe To Others

A little person's main psychological problem is not his awareness of his own size, a psychologist told the Little People of America convention Wednesday morning at Hotel Kirkwood.

"The problem is getting persons of average size to forget the difference," said Dr. Jackson Smith of Chicago, clinical director of the Illinois State Psychological Institute.

This is just a variation of the problem persons of all sizes face, Dr. Smith said.

"A Mask"

"Every man wears a mask, representing the way he wants to appear to other peo-

ple. Unhappiness occurs when a person is made to realize the difference between the mask and what he is really like," Dr. Smith explained.

In this sense, little people are like ministers, Dr. Smith said. The public determines the kind of mask a minister

wears and demands that it never be removed.

"The closer a man is to the mask he wears, the better off he is psychologically," Dr. Smith said.

"If you ask a person what he is, he can't tell you usually, unless he has spent time in a hospital discussing it.

"If a person finds that he is better than his concept of himself, he feels good. If it seems that he has fallen below his concept, he feels bad."

Dress, Talk

The indications of a person's concept of himself are his style of dress, the way he talks, and the subjects he likes to talk about, Dr. Smith said.

The fifth annual Little People convention will end Thursday. In Tuesday's meeting it was decided that the 1964 meeting will be at Phoenix, Ariz.

Earl M. Warr of Goodyear, Ariz., was appointed 1964 convention chairman by President Bob Brower of Scottsdale, Ariz.



SMITH



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

Little pilots Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens prepare to take off Saturday in Dallas Doll Derby air race.

347-Mile Course

24 Women Compete In Airplane Derby

ADDISON, Texas — Twenty-four single-engine planes headed skyward from Addison Airport here Saturday morning. The command pilot on every one of them was a woman.

The ladies piloted their aircraft on a 347-statute-mile air course to compete in the 8th annual Dallas Doll Derby sponsored by the Dallas chapter of Aero Sorority.

Contestants ranged in age from 52 to 60 — a wide span reflected as well in home town, personality, and physical appearance.

But surely the shortest was Mrs. Lee Kitchens of 938 Blue Lake Circle, Richardson. She stands three feet, 11 inches tall.

Both Mrs. Kitchens and her husband, who signed on as co-pilot, have been flying a year and a half but have never flown in a competitive event.

Kitchens, who is four feet, one-inch tall, said before the derby Saturday his and his wife's short stature is a "nuisance" but not a "problem" in flying.

"Otherwise the Federal Aviation Agency never would have licensed us," he explained.

Mrs. Kitchens and her fellow lady pilots flew their planes on a course from Addison southwest to Hillsboro, Hill County, then northwest to Graham, Young County, northeast to Sherman, Gayson County, and finally south to Addison.

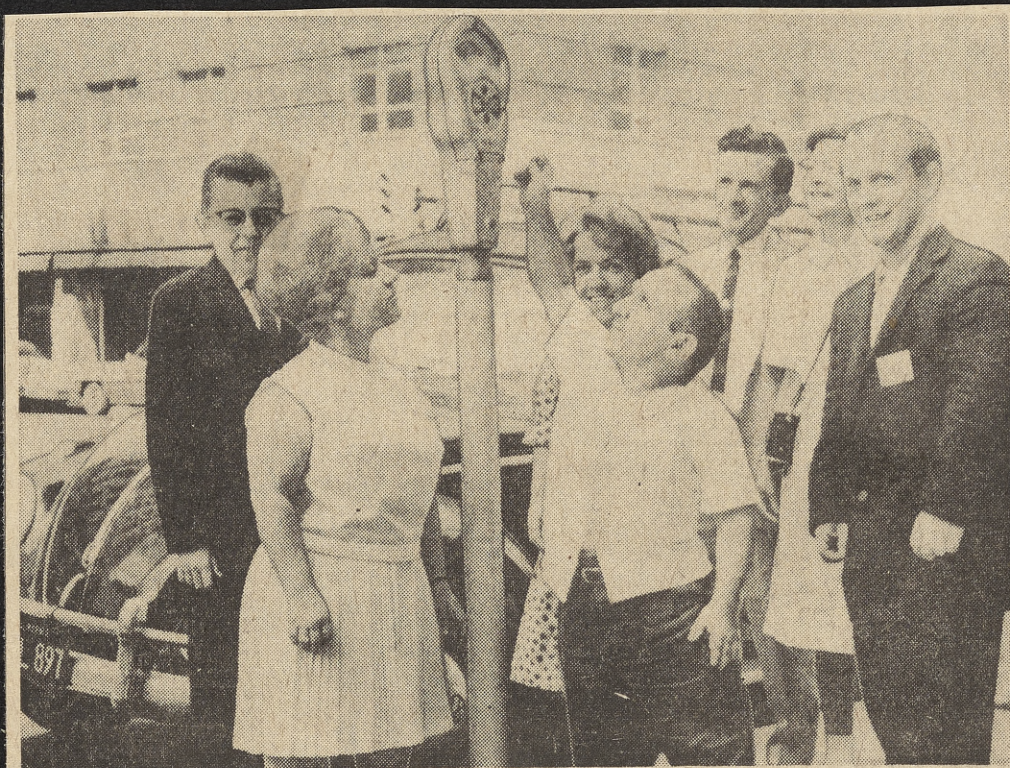
The pilots had to identify a letter at each of the three intervening cities' airports on the route; put together the letters spelled "F-U-N."

The course of the derby was kept secret until the race. This year for the first time the ladies were allowed to have men as co-pilots.

Mrs. Mary Jane Norris of Houston was named the winner. Addison, Texas — Twenty-

ning pilot, with Robert O. Norris as her co-pilot.

Runners-up were Edna Whyte of Fort Worth and her co-pilot, Sarel Cannon of Fort Worth, and in third place was Maybelle Fletcher of Houston and her co-pilot, Larry Fletcher.



IT'S A BIG WORLD—Parking meters are just one of the problems facing the small statured. These shorties were attending the Des Moines convention of the Little People of America—all under 4 feet, 11 inches. Striving to reach the meter is Pat Lytel, New York City. From left are Lee Landry, New Orleans; Dale Paullin, Marshalltown, Iowa; Selma Grant, Houston; Alfred Mills, Ukia, Calif.; Martha Whear, Anamosa, Iowa; and Robert Fowler, Mason City, Iowa.—UPI Telephoto.

CONVENTION

Town Was Long On Little People

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI)—Step-stools and small ladders were back in the closets here today—the "little people" have gone home.

During the five-day national convention of the Little People of America, three-foot ladders and kitchen stools were standard equipment beside drinking fountains, lunch counters and bars.

About 150 midgets and dwarfs wound up their annual meeting Friday with tales of the hard times of the "little guy."

Parking meters presented no end of problems. Many of the little people just couldn't reach high enough to put a coin in the slot.

The result can be exhausting. An overtime parking ticket on the windshield of his car stymied Pat Lytel, 55, New York, for a time. He had to crawl up over the hood of the auto to get the summons.

"I often have a heck of a time getting a cup of black coffee in a restaurant," Bill Raecke, Lincoln, Neb., complained. "Most of

the waitresses try to give me milk and soda pop."

Raecke is 4 feet 8 inches tall.

The annual convention, supplemented by occasional regional gatherings, is often the only chance some little people have to enjoy social and recreational activities with others of their own stature.

"Where else can a little man be sure of meeting a little woman?" asked 3-foot, 10-inch Mrs. Stella Shelterly, North Platte, Neb.

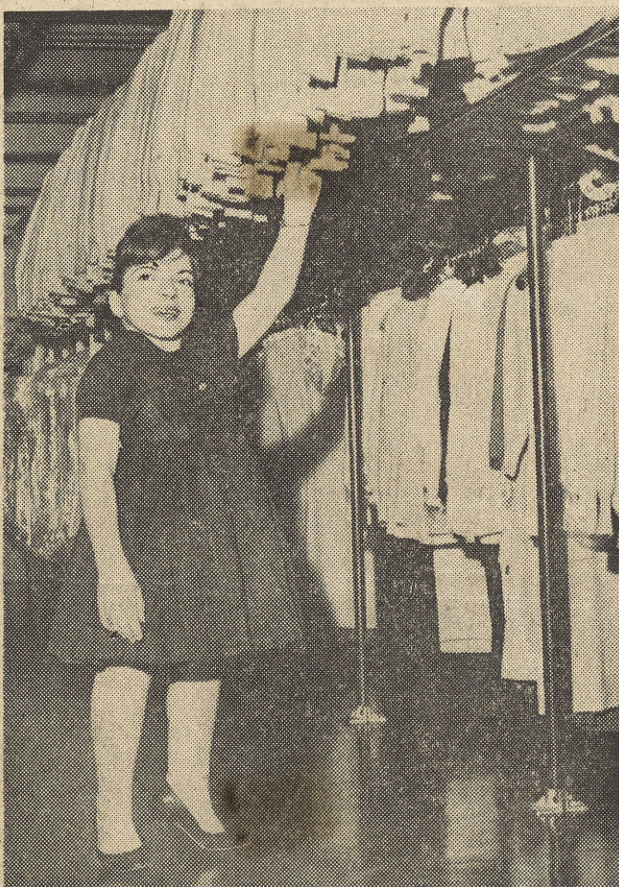
"I've dated men that were over six feet tall, and always had a great time, but I think we should marry someone about our own size," she said.

Mrs. Shelterly did. But she still has to "look up" to her husband. He is 4 feet 4 inches tall.

The convention also had its serious side.

Panel and workshop sessions were conducted on facing their peculiar social and employment problems, dating for the little teenager, and how to prepare their "little littles" to grow up in a world of "giants" who are often scornful and unkind.

THE PLAIN DEALER,



While not trying to organize a Cleveland chapter of The Little People of America, Inc., Barbara DeVolt is kept busy as a fashion illustrator for Bobbie Brooks, Inc.

Plain Dealer Photo (Richard J. Misch)

Tiny Woman Begins Little People Drive

Barbara DeVolt is a little woman with big ideas.

The 28-year-old East Sider, who stands 19 inches taller than a yardstick, is making herself a committee of one to establish a Cleveland district chapter of The Little People of America, Inc.

Little People is a nationwide organization for physically mature residents who are shorter than four feet, ten inches. It was founded six years ago by television actor Billie Bart, once a regular performer in the "Peter Gunn" series.

THROUGH DISCUSSION groups and speeches, Little People tries "to help its members live as normal a life as possible," Miss DeVolt explained.

Her first major project to form a local chapter of the group is to interest little people in the Greater Cleveland area in attending the organization's national convention. The four-day conference will open July 19 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Fashion shows, bowling tournaments, adoption seminars and scholarship discussions will highlight the convention this year, Miss DeVolt said. Members will elect a King and Queen.

AMONG OTHER things, the group "tries to teach ways of improving scholarship, since mental work is more in line with capabilities of little people than physical work," Miss DeVolt pointed out.

Also on the convention program are seminars and research clinics connected with the bio-chemistry of little people. The topic is a specialty of Dr. Leonard Langner of the University of Minnesota, who will present some of his findings.

Greater Clevelanders interested in attending the convention may telephone 491-3038 for arrangements.

34

DES MOINES TRIBUNE

Thurs., Aug. 1, 1963

A 'Little' Royal Pair Selected

By Van A. Tyson

The Little People of America concluded their biggest convention Thursday at Hotel Kirkwood.

It was the biggest both in number of delegates (132) and accomplishments, said Charles Bedow of Owatonna, Minn., convention chairman.

Coronation

One of the last official functions was coronation of the convention "king" and "queen," King Dennis Binion of Atlanta and Queen Phyllis Polston of Wixom, Mich., who also were the shortest delegates at the convention.

The most important accomplishments at the convention, Bedow said, were exchanges



DENNIS BINION PHYLLIS POLSTON

of ideas between individual delegates and through seminars.

Through this exchange the little people have learned to cope with their own problems and have been given information that will help them in assisting little people who couldn't attend the convention.

"One thing we have tried to emphasize in our meetings is that small stature has its advantages as well as drawbacks," Bedow said. "We can do many things that larger people can't and, pound for pound, we are usually much stronger."

Some of the special topics discussed at the convention:

Clothing—This involves difficulties peculiar to little people. Men, for instance, have to avoid sports coats with large plaid design.

Autos—Hand controls and extended pedals must be installed. "Learning to drive a car often gives a little person the independence he has longed for," Bedow said.

Children—Bedow said little people usually have normal children. One couple at the convention, both under four feet in height, have a six-foot son.

The main reason for the high attendance at this year's convention, Bedow said, was Des Moines' central location. Last year's meeting at Asheville, N. C., attracted only 82 members. Next year's convention will be in Phoenix, Ariz.



ARIZONA DAYS & WAYS

July 12, 1964

THE REPUBLIC'S **Sunday** MAGAZINE



Little People In The Big People's World

Elevators are no solution to the problems of Little People trying to get up in the world. Little People of America who spend lifetimes on stools will hold their national convention here next week.



ROD MOYER

'Don't Call Us Cute'

by Esther Clark

Everything Is Looking Up For Little People

Who Will Gather Here For National Convention

THE 5-7½ VISITOR stood in the center of the living room and had the sensation of being in another world.

Not from the surroundings, however, for furniture and room dimensions were normal. It was the people standing and sitting in a circle.

Not one of the 14 was taller than 4 feet, 10 inches.

BUT, YES, THERE was one. When he arose to acknowledge an introduction to the guest, he loomed a grand 5-8.

"How do you do, and please meet my wife," said Furl Waddell. A pretty, white-haired woman, 53 inches high, smiled a welcome.

The guest, becoming less discomfited by unfeigned friendliness, then met the other members of the club, officially known as Little People of America, Inc., Phoenix Chapter.

"OUR TWO GIRLS, who are adopted and normal size, will be coming in soon

and we want you to meet them," said Bob Brower of Scottsdale. He is national president, whose 4 feet, 10 inches just get him under the membership wire for the association's maximum height.

Mrs. Brower, 2 inches over 4 feet, bustled about the room in white blouse and shorts. The rose-colored nail polish on toes of her doll-like feet twinkled as she flitted from one group to another, talking about the national convention July 19-23 at the Phoenix HighwayHouse.

Interrupting a chat on the convention fashion show she was having with Mrs. Danny Taylor, 3 feet, 9, Mrs. Brower held out a hand to sun-tanned daughter Cathy, 5, already almost as tall as her mother. A few minutes later, hazel-eyed Vicki, 9, came charging in, stooping to get a kiss and hug from mom.

"DO WE HAVE SMALL children just because we're small, you ask?" repeated 61-inch-tall Taylor from a stairway perch.

because we keep our everyday dishes on bottom shelves."

The Little Person in the chair next to her, Mrs. Maurice Alden, smiled as she said, "We couldn't get along without stools and stepladders. I carried a stool all through high school in New Hampshire."

MRS. ALDEN, A BUSINESS college graduate, is a bride of eight months. She and her husband, a precision mechanic at Motorola, met at a Little People's national convention in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1960.

"That wedding reception was really something," laughingly reminded Norman Brock. "We did whoop it up."

Brock and wife Etta, married 41 years, are retired show business performers and dance instructors. They have two daughters and five grandchil-

dren, all normal size except one granddaughter. "She's 8 and looks 4," he said.

MENTION OF THE wedding prompted Mrs. Brower to say she and the prospective bride were fortunate in finding a wedding gown.

"We saw a waltz-length dress for a little big person and were delighted. It made a floor-length gown for Marge."

Little People either buy small-size big people's clothing or have garments tailored, but the shoe problem is always not so satisfactorily solved.

"I CAN'T GET HIGH HEELS because the specialty houses only sell sizes 1 through 5, and I wear 12½ so have to buy children's shoes," said Mrs. Taylor, a child's size 11 in dresses.

Not clothing, not shoes, but employ-

BROWER BROKE IN TO report Little People are finding more employment because the public is becoming educated to the fact that "we can do just as good in a job as big people with the same ability."

The national convention, at which about 150 delegates are expected, will prove Brower's point. For the membership is represented by virtually every occupation, from barbers to bankers, from artists to accountants.

While the national membership is about 1,500, there are approximately 3,000 more Little Persons in the country, according to Brower's estimate. The problem is to convince non-members that hiding in a small world brings loneliness and unhappiness.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE in the Brower living room had an easy give and take conversation, even to good-natured ribbing.

"Behind you is one of the club's bachelors," said Brower, pointing to Clarence Hughes.

The visitor asked what Hughes does.

BROCK BEAT EVERYONE to the answer. "He drinks short beers and watches girls." The crowd roared and Hughes blushed furiously.

Hughes, 36, whose parents, three

ment is Little People's biggest worry. Club members are unanimous on this point.

"Back in 1918, I couldn't get a job as a stenographer," recalled Mrs. Alden's mother, Mrs. Alice Bourassa, a Little Person who was the second child of normal parents. "Things are better now, I know."

FROM THE COUCH came the soft voice of David Willer, another Goodwill employe, in the clothing department.

"Since I came from Chicago in 1961, I haven't been able to find a job in my printing trade. I've tried many places but they always give me some excuse."

The couch's fourth occupant, Miss Hazel Wilcoxson, related her unsuccessful efforts in trying to find a cashier's job or desk work.

brothers and sister are big people, puts his smallness to work for him. He seals joints inside storm drains, water lines and irrigation pipes.

"Standing near the door is the other bachelor," Brower said, looking toward Earl Warr, who turned out to be another retired vaudeville performer, a bounding wire artist.

Warr is 4-feet-6 and Little People's chairman of District 10 which includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. He is divorced from a nurse, 5 inches taller than he. Among other differences, he says, "We didn't see eye to eye."

WARR, ALSO CONVENTION chairman, took the joking with good grace, even the comment from Taylor about "making coffee money by dabbling in real estate."

Everyone smiled as Brock looked at Waddell, who was holding hands with his wife of 53 years.

"He's for us 100 per cent," Brock said of the retired Ohio cigar maker. "He is big but recognizes that Little People can live effectively in two worlds—small and large. His wife does."

MRS. WADDELL GLANCED at her husband and he tightened the hold on her tiny hand as she returned in memory

to Ohio. "I met my sweetie in a cigar factory."

The Waddells have one daughter, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all normal size. "Our grandsons are 6-footers," she beamed.

A Little Person does not like to be stared at any more than does a big person, reminded Mrs. Taylor, adjusting a strap of her shift-type dress.

"WHEN I'M OUT WALKING and hear someone in back of me say, 'Isn't that cute!' I get so burned up I want to pop them."

Brower, picking up the subject, added: "Sure we go to night clubs, dances, restaurants and bowling alleys. If we're on the dance floor and big people stare at us, we walk off the floor. They soon get the message, and then we go back and dance."

Most Little People like to dance, he said. "We have no problem doing that. Our feet touch the floor."

AS THE 5-7½ VISITOR rose to leave, several of the Little People seemed anxious to know whether they seemed any different from a group of big people. They definitely do not.

"We'd like for you to come to our convention dance," Brower added over a goodnight handshake.

The Goodwill Industries TV-radio repairman hurried along with "It's something glandular that makes us small, but that doesn't necessarily mean our children will be. It's the same with half-pints, as with grownups, as to whether we have any at all."

His wife, Donna, nodded agreement from the depths of an upholstered chair whose seat front her feet failed to reach.

LIKE ALL THE FURNITURE, the chair is standard size—"to accommodate our many normal size friends," Brower explained.

"We have some housekeeping habits like some big ladies," interjected Mrs. Taylor. "When we're going to have big guests, we use stepladders to clean dust from the top shelves. We seldom see it

Richardson's "Little Family" Departs For Phoenix And Little Folks Confab

BY MARION TAYLOR

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens and their children, Alan and Sandra, 938 Blue Lake Circle, will leave for Phoenix Sunday to attend the four-day national convention of Little People of America, Inc.

Mr. Kitchens, head of Technical Services Engineering in the Power Department of Texas Instruments, and wife Mary, an accomplished pianist and artist, are active members of LPA, the organization for midgets and dwarfs. They have found that the exchange of ideas, and discussions of problems common to little people in adjusting to a society of "big" folks can be very beneficial to members who are able to attend. Membership in the group numbers about 700.

SOME OF the physical problems the group will discuss are transportation and clothing. Lee feels that showing another little person the practical solution of having a car adjusted with longer gas and brake pedals and a raised seat, is time well spent. Much of the clothing of the men and women is custom made, but

some men can wear teenagers' or boys' clothes and some women are able to wear ready mades by shortening the skirts. Employment is always a major subject for discussion.

"A lot of people have some preconceived ideas (sometimes incorrect) about what little people can and cannot do", Lee said. "Physical limitation is not always a consideration; one man I know runs a service station, another is a school custodian. There are many bookkeepers, secretaries and teachers. And I know at least one successful barber, an attorney and one other engineer, now retired".

EMOTIONAL problems are less easily solved, but to young little people, Lee stresses education and the importance of establishing a goal and working toward it. He himself set such a goal --to be an electrical engineer--and after graduation from a Ft. Worth high school, enrolled in the cooperative plan at SMU. He worked at TI while receiving his formal education, and now supervises several engineers and techni-

cians. Although most of his work is now administrative, he holds two patents on semiconductor devices and there are a couple more pending. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas. The family attends Preston Hollow Methodist Church, where Mary plays the piano in Sunday School and Lee is a member of the Board of Stewards.

Lee met his talented wife Mary on a blind date while she was an art major student at Texas Woman's University. A native of Lubbock, her father is long time Texas Tech engineering professor C. C. Perryman. She has worked as a free lance artist, but devotes her time now to caring for the couple's two captivating adopted children, Alan, 8 and Sandra, 4, and the family's stunning new contemporary home.

The imaginatively designed home, two years in the planning stage ("We nit-picked every single detail", Lee laughs), is a perfect blend of beauty and function. Eighteen lovely, strong color tones sing gaily throughout the white-walled rooms. Push-

touch doors open kitchen cabinets Mary can reach with ease, soundless light switches are placed low, and counters and sinks in kitchen and two baths are 27" instead of the standard 31". The guest bath is regulation size. An absence of steps permits conservation of energy for more exciting tasks.

THE INDUSTRIOUS couple assert that they will try anything once, and one of the hobbies they are enjoying now is taking pictures and developing them in their own darkroom. Lee is a coin collector and Mary saves first day covers (first day new stamps come out). These, along with two walls of books are kept in the study. Workmen are now building cabinets in the workroom to hold other hobbies of the family.

Mary, a Dover P-TA'er and past president of the evening group, Dallas, TWU Alumnae, is chairman of the Adoption Committee for Little People of America, and as such acts as a go-between for little people who want to adopt little, little people, and the adoption agencies. She does no placement but keeps in contact with various state organizations and has some names of couples interested in adoption. Lee is chairman of the Texas and Louisiana area, and published a newsletter regularly. He is always "in" to prospective members and members of LPA. The Kitchens were hosts to a district meeting at which 32 members attended at their home in June.

THE LPA, founded by Billy Barty, a show business personality, was launched in 1958 on a Ralph Edwards "This is Your Life" show. The first meeting was in 1960 in Las Vegas, and interest has grown steadily since that time. One of the highlights of next's week's gathering will be a fashion show. "Where else can we little people model in a fashion show?", Mary says matter-of-factly.

A talent show is scheduled, as well as education panels and seminars, election of a king and queen, bowling tournaments and baseball. Lee has served as education chairman, working with a scholarship group who helps younger little people with their college

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RICHARDSON, TEXAS

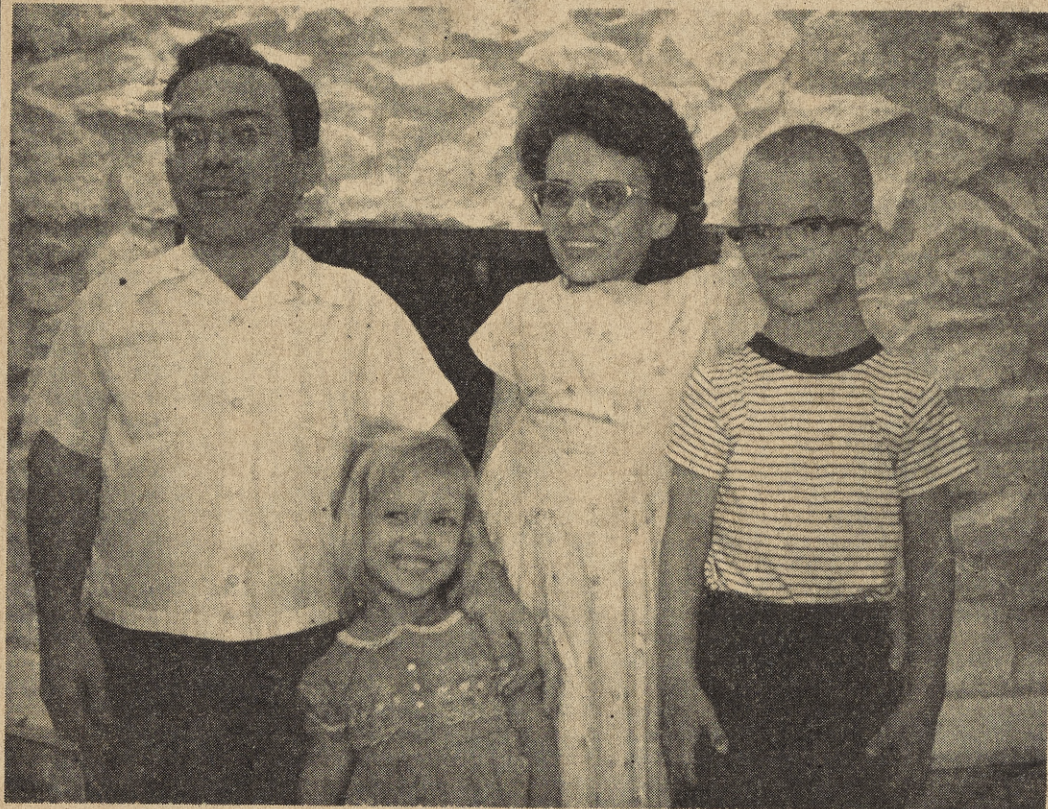
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1964

PRICE 5¢

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON

A CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER FOR THE CONSERVATIVE HEART OF TEXAS

The RICHARDSON DIGEST



OFF TO PHOENIX this weekend to attend the national convention of Little People, Inc. are Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens and children, Sandra and Alan, 938 Blue Lake Circle. Mr. Kitchens is TI head of Technical Services Engineering in the Power Dept. and his wife Mary is a talented artist and pianist. Both are active in the organization for midgets and dwarfs, which meets annually to discuss problems and exchange ideas.

education. The group contributes to the cause of science when they cooperate annually with a Minneapolis doctor who brings his X-ray equipment to the conventions and sets up a clinic for research work he is doing.

Although definitely not a lonely hearts club, the LPA conventions are not without their fringe benefits, say the Kitchens. A number of weddings have occurred as a result of the get togethers, the first of which was that of the founder, Billy Barty, who met his bride at the very first meeting.

ARIZONA

Daily

NEWS

Phoenix, Arizona

Phone 273-7356

Wednesday, July 22, 1964

Midget Magician Has Combined Act

By JOYCE TRENT
DAILY NEWS Staff Writer
Joe White was a natural
for a disappearing act, being
only half-size anyway.

But when the midget magician decided to combine that art with the teaching of religion a lot of people stooped down and took notice.

White illustrated his technique yesterday at the annual convention of the Little People of America at the Highway House.

He is one of 100 delegates. Others in the group include an 80-year-old midget woman who works full-time as a proof reader and two third generation midgets.

White began his career with Ringling Bros. Circus. After the big circus fire he joined a carnival and was billed as Prince Tiny, the magician. The turning point in his life came in Wisconsin where he met the girl who later became his wife.

"She was an active worker in the church. I thought, why not combine magic with religion and that's how it all started," White explained.

During the week now he travels for a meat packing firm and on Sunday he teaches Sunday School in his unusual way.

He calls his Sunday School act, "The Gospel in a Nutshell."

He shows a box with a block in it engraved with a cross. He closes the box, saying, "And they placed Jesus in a sepulchre."

Next he opens the box. Its empty. "And they found him gone."

Then from a hat he pulls the block. "But he was reborn."

Displaying an empty picture frame he says, "These are the empty hearts of some boys and girls." When he next shows it, it contains a picture of Christ to illustrate what happens when God fills the heart.

White makes three ropes blend in the air to show the Trinity, and pours endless amounts of water from a tiny vial onto a toy ship to portray the story of Noah.

He's received little criticism and many compliments for his way of teaching, he says, and has found fulfillment for himself.

Lola Cox is not a magician but she's a sprightly little midget and to look at her one couldn't guess she is 80 years old. She proved yesterday she wasn't a bit timid either.

In the heart of Goldwater country she proclaimed she didn't plan to vote for the Republican senator for president.

"I don't think he's for the little people," she said.

"I mean the working people, not just us midgets," she explained.

She hails from San Francisco where she is a proof-reader for a type setting service. After 44 years on the job she thinks she may retire next year. "I'm not sure though," she added with a



twinkle in her eyes.

It's very rare for a family to have third generation midgets. But that's the case with the Johnny Clifton family of Austin, Tex., who are attending the convention.

Their granddaughters are accompanying them. Clifton was the midget who traveled for Buster Brown shoes.

The midgets are an enter-

taining lot for the motel personnel. The employees were warned of the group's size before they arrived, especially the bartenders who, otherwise, might have thought they had had too much when a midget strode up to the bar and said:

"Let me have a tall one."

And that's what some of them did.

ABRACADABRA—

Midget magician Joe White of Kenosha, Wisc. combines his art with the Gospel. He travels all over the country pulling crosses out of hats and performing other tricks to illustrate religious texts.

What Happens When Little Ones Gather

Daily NEWSfotos
By Frank Sepanski

Wednesday, July 22, 1964

ARIZONA
Daily NEWS



ALOHA--Mrs. Marcella Brower, wife of the national president of the Little People of America, does the hula at a Hawaiian dance during the convention yesterday.



A LITTLE PURCHASE -- Marvin Bly of Sioux Falls, S. D., takes a break from swimming to select a pair of sun glasses in the motel lobby. (NEWS fotos by Frank Sepanski)



JOURNALIST? One of the oldest midgets in the country, Mrs. Lola Cox, 80, of San Francisco, still is in good form and holds down a job as a proofreader.



Neighborhood children are Mrs. Norman Brock's steady penny candy customers.



Norman Brock, left, discusses poultry raising hobby with Earl Warr, convention chairman, formerly in show business.



Clarence Hughes can work in a 15-inch-diameter pipe to seal joints.



Brake and clutch extensions make driving a big car easy for Maurice Alden. He is a Motorola precision mechanic.



THIRD GENERATION--The youngsters in this picture are third generation midgets. They are the grandchildren of Johnny Clifton, also shown, who travels the country for Buster Brown shoes. From Left, granddaughter Donna Lee Swensen, 13; Mrs. Clifton; granddaughter Nancy Gayle, 18. They reside in Austin, Tex.



YOUNG 'UN--The youngest midget at the convention was 6-year-old Libby Kelly born of normal size parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Denver, Colo. She stands 26 1/2 inches high.



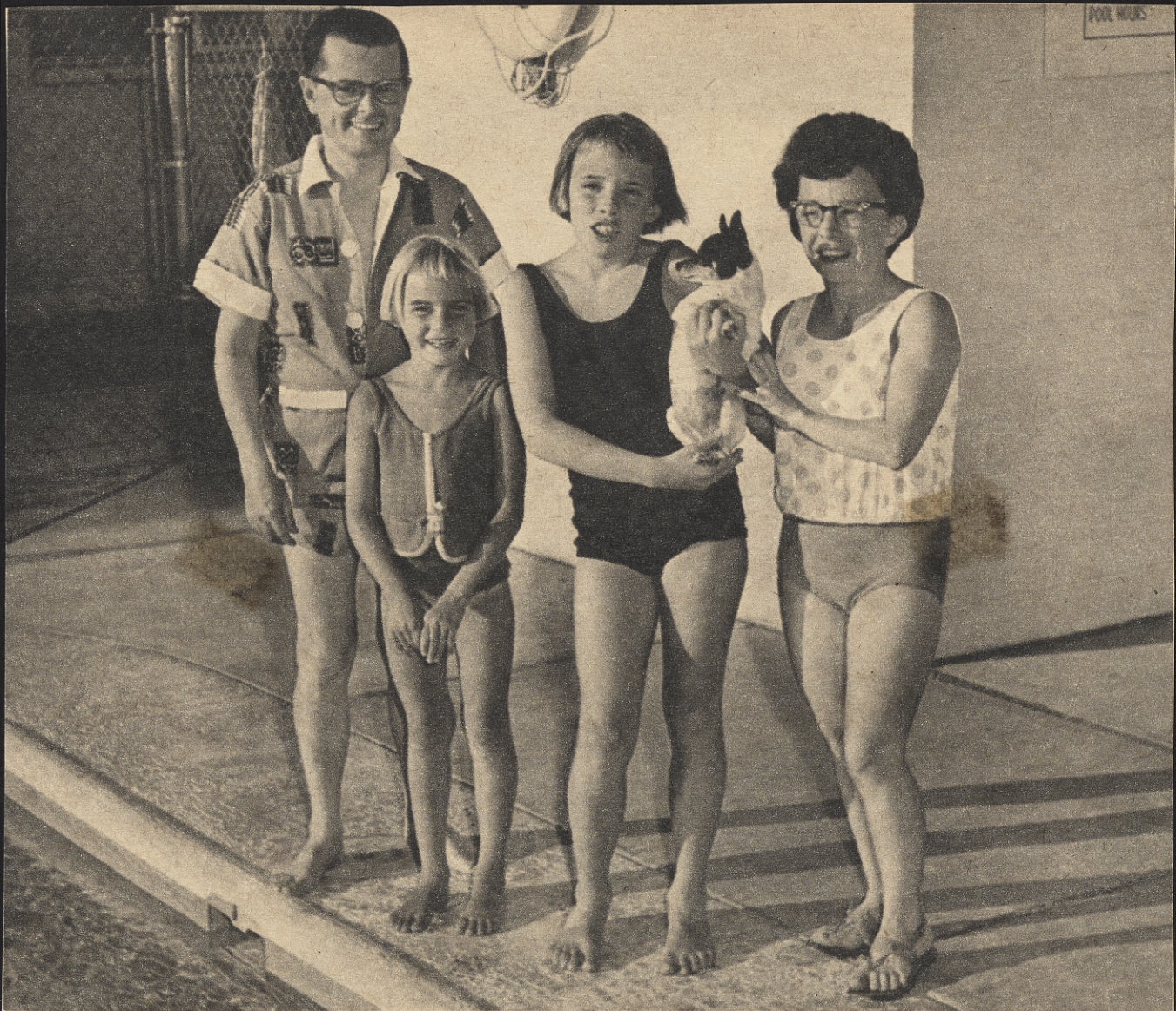
Mr. and Mrs. Furl Waddell enjoy trailer house living.



Footstool aid for Mrs. Maurice Alden, head bookkeeping machine operator at Smitty's Big Town, Scottsdale. She is 4-1.



Good housekeeping steps for Mrs. Danny Taylor. All her furniture is normal size.



PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARLES R. CONLEY

Poolside at their Scottsdale apartment are the Bob Brower family. Adopted daughters are 5-year-old Cathy, left, and Vicky, 9. Brower, comptroller at Smitty's Big Town, Scottsdale, is president of Little People of America, Inc., formed in 1955 by actor Billy Barty.



LONG DISTANCE?--Lee Wright of Hooks, Tex., demonstrates how a midget uses a pay phone.



SHORT HARD DAY--National president Bob Brower sprawls on a motel couch after an exhausting day at the convention. The convention will last through Thursday.



A surprise feature of the Little People's fashion show came when brides appeared to give members a glimpse of their ensembles. Models receive a helping hand from their respective husbands. From left are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Alden of Phoenix and Mr. and Mrs. George A. Baehm III of Great Neck, N.Y.

The Phoenix Gazette

Today's Woman

Family Fashions Features

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1964

PAGE 33

Little Women Set Style Flair

By CAROL OSMAN BROWN
Gazette Staff Writer

Most individuals are familiar with the classic novel "Little Women," but few have an opportunity to attend an actual gathering of doll-like ladies.

However, this week the Little People of America, Inc. are holding their sixth annual national convention in Phoenix. Thus a wide range of midgets, dwarfs and miniature people from all parts of the nation are at the Hiway-House.

Wherever there are women there is bound to be an interest in fashion. So it was only natural that one of the highlights of the confab, which concludes today, was a style show.

"Little People either buy small-size big people's clothing and children's apparel, have garments tailored, or make their own clothes," reveals Mrs. Bob (Marcella) Brower, wife of the group's retiring president.

Shoes also present a major problem. Most of these women admit that they purchase high heeled shoes from speciality houses whenever possible but often have to resort to wearing children's footwear.

"We can get by with using standard size furniture, office equipment, and other items, but our clothes just have to be styled on a smaller scale," quipped one vivacious little miss.

Chairman of the fashion show, Marcella explained that the styles were divided into three categories: tailor-made, hand-made and store-bought, altered items. Everything from sportswear to evening attire was modeled by the Little Women, who amazed the audience with their versatile sewing ability.

One of the most enjoyable showings was that of children's clothing. Models were Little People's children who wore items created by their parents or grandparents. Store-bought infant and baby clothes can often be worn by these children till they reach ages of late childhood.

"But as we 'grow up' it becomes harder and harder to find more sophisticated clothing needed for attending

dances, night clubs and restaurants," admitted a small charmer, clad in stunning formal attire for the show.

A surprise feature of the annual event was the appearance of three little couples who were wed during the past year. "Since many of the members had wished to attend the marriages, but were unable to, I thought it would be nice if they could at least see the brides as they were on their wedding day," smiled Marcella, who served as matron of honor for Mrs. Maurice Alden of Phoenix.

First place winners in the fashion show were Miss Barbara De Volt of Cleveland, Ohio, who won in the tailor-made class wearing a black chiffon, hand-beaded evening gown she created herself; Miss Frances Billingsley of Snyder, Tex., who wore a ready-made dressy white cotton for the store-bought division. Winner of the self-made cotton category was Mrs. Billy Barty of N. Hollywood, Calif., wife of the actor who formed the organization in 1955. She appeared in a pale blue ensemble accented by an attractive white lace coat. Her accessories were of matching blue.



Gazette Staff Photos by Carol Osman Brown

First place prize winners at the fashion show presented by Little People of America, Inc., at the HiwayHouse, were: Miss Frances Billingsley of Snyder, Tex., left, Miss Barbara De Volt of Cleveland, Ohio, on chair, and right, Mrs. Billy Barty of North Hollywood, Calif., wife of the organization's founder. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Bob Brower of Phoenix, center. She was assisted by Miss Frances Conville of Decatur, Ga., second left, new national secretary.

SECOND
FRONT PAGE

The Phoenix Gazette

Tuesday, July 21, 1964

6—Section 3

The Dallas Morning News

Thursday, July 23, 1964

Texan Elected By Little People

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Lee Kitchens of Richardson, was elected to succeed Robert Brower of Scottsdale, Ariz., at the group's sixth annual convention in Phoenix. Gloucester, N. J., was picked as the site for next year's meeting.

William Albaugh of Camden, N. J., was re-elected vice president. Others elected: Charles Bedow, Owatonna, Minn., treasurer; and Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga., secretary.

Members of the organization may be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches. Motto of the Little People is "think big."

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD

28-A****

DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 24, 1964

Editorials

Short Item

CANDIDATES all over the country this fall will be saying they want to represent the little people of this nation. But these candidates are too late. The "little people" have already chosen their leader. It's Lee Kitchens of Richardson.

Kitchens' biggest qualification for office? He meets the Little People of America Club's standard of being under four feet, 11 inches tall.

Texan Elected To Presidency Of Little People

PHOENIX, Ariz., July 21 (AP)—An undersized Texan was chosen for the big job of president of the Little People of America Tuesday.

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SHORT STORY PRETTY BIG

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex., has the new job of president of the Little People of America, whose motto is "Think Big."

Members may be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches. Kitchens was chosen Tuesday to succeed Robert Brower of Scottsdale, Ariz., at the group's sixth annual convention.

Little People Elect Leader; Yup, A Texan

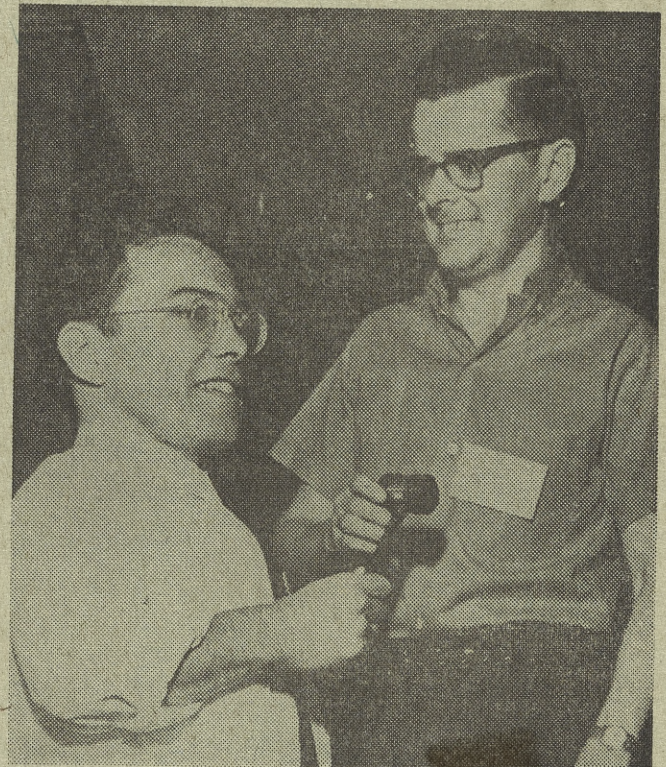
A small Texan has been handed the big job of president of the Little People of America for 1964-65.

Elected during balloting today was Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex.

He takes over the post held by Bob Brower, 825 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale.

More than 125 Little People are meeting this week for their sixth annual convention at Hi-wayHouse. Next year's get-together will be in Gloucester, N.J.

Re-elected vice president was William Albaugh of Camden, N.J. Treasurer will be Charles Bedow, Owatonna, Minn., and Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga., secretary.



Gazette Staff Photo

New president of Little People of America, Lee Kitchens (left), is congratulated by Bob Brower, outgoing president.

Clear-Channel—WSB Radio—50,000 Watts

RADIO 750 AWARD

Presented to

LEE KITCHENS

By

WSB Radio

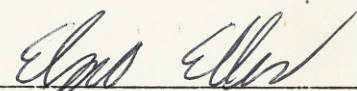
"The Voice of the South"

Atlanta, Georgia

In Recognition of Achievement as the Top Headline Maker of the Day
on
WSB Five-Star Final News

JULY 21, 1964

(DATE)



News Department
WSB Radio

AM—WSB Radio—FM

The Atlanta Journal

The Atlanta Constitution

HIWAY HOUSE PHOENIX GA PLS
NON-LINEAR SYSTEMS, DALLAS, TEXAS 214-899-8051 JULY 22, 1964

TO PRESIDENT LEE KITCHENS.....385533 PEOXXX
LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
CARE OF HIWAY HOUSE MOTEL, PHOENIX

WE WERE THRILLED TO HEAR THE REPORT OF YOUR ELECTION ON THE LOCAL
RADIO STATIONS. WE ARE BUSILY ENGAGED IN TURNING OUT KITCHENS FOR
PRESIDENT BANNERS AND LAPEL BUTTONS. BEFORE WE DISTRIBUTE THEM,
HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE A STATEMENT FROM YOU CONCERNING YOUR PLATFORM.
ARE YOU A GOLDWATER CONSERVATIVE OR A JOHNSON LIBERAL.
AGAIN, SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

CLIFF LEATH AND COMPANY.....560/// TYPING ERRORS BY SANDY

PLS ACK WILL RELY MESS TO MR KITCHENS END OR GA EI
THX SO MUCH END O

Telefax

WESTERN UNION

Telefax

TLX PD DALLAS TEX 7-23-64 915A

1964 JUL 23 AM 8 24

MR LEE KITCHENS

HIGHWAY HOUSE MOTEL

VAN BURAN ST PHOENIX

1022

TELETYPE

THIS MESSAGE RECEIVED BY
FROM SEATTLE

CONGRATULATIONS WHEEL. WE'VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH NEWS COVERAGE.
WILL YOU STILL CONVERSE WITH THE BIG PEOPLE.

KARL ZIMMERMANN- DAN AMIS- BILL AVRETT 3-215 JF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INC

1270 (1-51)

From the Desk of:

CHUCK SWENSON

Lee,
Congratulations on your
election.
Chuck Swenson

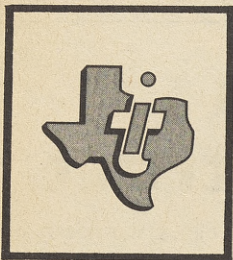
BIG JOB FOR LITTLE LEE



Lee Kitchens
Lee is head of the
Technical Services
section of the Power Transistor department,
Semiconductor - Components division. He
joined the TI family as a summer co-op
student in 1952.

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Motto of the organization is "think big."

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tle man with a big job
at TI, was elected
president of the Little
People of America at
the group's sixth an-
nual convention in
Phoenix, Ariz., earlier
this month.



texins news[®]

Published by and for
The People of
Texas Instruments
Incorporated

Volume 3

Wednesday, July 29, 1964

Number 14

BIG JOB FOR LITTLE LEE



Lee Kitchens, a little man with a big job at TI, was elected president of the Little People of America at the group's sixth annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz., earlier this month.

Lee is head of the Technical Services section of the Power Transistor department, Semiconductor - Components division. He joined the TI family as a summer co-op student in 1952.

Members of the Little People of America may be no taller than four feet 10 inches. Motto of the organization is "think big."

Kitchens Named Prexy

Lee Kitchens, 938 Blue Lake Circle, was elected president of the Little People of America last week in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Kitchens, head of Technical Services Engineering in the Power Department of Texas Instruments, his wife Mary and children Alan and Sandra, were subjects of a feature story in the Digest two weeks ago, immediately preceding their trip to attend



"Holding forth the word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ." Philipians 2: 16.

Christian love for any individual or group will concern itself first with their eternal destiny. Men are lost without the Saviour, and no amount of social improvement or legislation can advance men one step toward salvation from sin and to eternal life. The one imperative need for man is to hear the good news of salvation which is theirs simply through faith.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." Romans 1: 16

AERIAL BILLINGS

the group's sixth annual national convention.

District 8, the Texas and Louisiana area of which Mr. Kitchens was chairman before his election to the presidency, captured several prizes at the gathering of 125 little people from all over the country. In the clothes "you make yourself" category in the fashion show Mrs. Kitchens won second place for a silk party dress she made and modeled. Persons in the district earned awards in all three categories of the fashion show, as well as in the bowling tournament. The Kitchens' son Alan escorted sister Sandra in the children's division of the style show.

Other officers who were elected to serve in LPA were: William Albaugh of Camden, N.J., vice president; Charles Bedow, Owatonna, Minnesota, treasurer; and Frances Conville, Decatur, Georgia, secretary. Billy Barty, well-known show business personality, is the new editor of the group's monthly newsletter.

Mr. Kitchens welcomes any and all inquiries from little people (they may be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches), and/or from other persons anywhere in the country who are acquainted with little people. The organization, whose appropriate motto is "Think Big", will meet next year at Gloucester, New Jersey.

Say You Saw It
In The Digest

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 51

RICHARDSON, TEXAS

Wednesday, July 29, 1964

PRICE 5¢

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON

A CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER FOR THE CONSERVATIVE HEART OF TEXAS

The RICHARDSON DIGEST



non-linear systems inc.

South Central Region
8428 Kate Street, Suite 206
Dallas, Texas 75225

214 EMerson 3-5533

July 29, 1964

Dear Lee -

*'Thought you might like to have
some copies of this clipping to send
to relatives, paper the walls, et cetera!*

*I hope you had a great
vacation.*

Andy Worrell

Thursday, July 23, 1964

The Dallas Morning News

Texan Elected By Little People

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Coffee Talk



By MARION TAYLOR

MRS. E.A. NAHKUNST (SUE), 519 Summit, has returned from Hubbard, where she attended the funeral of her 92-year old grandfather, DR. LIVINGSTON BARNES. Dr. Barnes was an outstanding physician and community servant who practiced medicine in Hubbard for more than 50 years. He received the Golden T Award from the University of Tennessee, served two terms as mayor of Hubbard, built its Community House, organized the Lions Club and served as surgeon of the Cotton Belt Railroad.

MR. AND MRS. BOB BAKER and family, 531 Carol Court, are on a trip to El Paso and Cloudcroft, New Mexico.

MRS. YOSHIO INOMATA, Stroudsburg, Pa., has been here for several weeks, visiting her parents, DR. AND MRS. R.J. SPEER, 2033 Willingham.

MRS. AND MRS. ELMER KELLEY, PAULA AND CATHY, will go to California this week for a vacation.

THE MARION HARLOW family's German guest, 15 year old HEIDI BEIK, had been in America a little more than three weeks when Mrs. Harlow, thinking she might be homesick for her native language, took her to see a German friend. Heidi started to talk, then quickly reverted

back to English--"Oh, dear, I can't German any more," she said. The Harlows and Heidi spent three weeks sight-seeing in 10 states. DEBBIE HARLOW will return home next week from her visit with Heidi's family in Germany.

MR. AND MRS. LEE KITCHENS, 938 Blue Lake Circle, entertained house guests FRANCES CONDILE, Decatur, Georgia; CHARLES BEDOW, Owatonna, Minnesota; LEE LANDRY, New Orleans; and JACKIE HESTER, Mesquite, last week.

THE GENE SMITHS, 518 Polk, vacationed in Platt National Park, Oklahoma last week, camping out with their four children.

BILL AND MARGIE TUCKER AND CHILDREN, 734 Dumont, have returned from a camping trip in the Smokies, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

U.S. Air Force CAPT. WALES WOODARD, son of MR. AND MRS. WILL WOODARD, 434 Highland, visited his parents during the weekend. He jetted here from Cervantes, Oregon.

DUKE AND ALICE KIMBROUGH, 631 Winchester Drive, spent their vacation in Bryan, where their five boys "stormed the campus of A & M", according to Alice. All five boys plan to attend a 7 m, their father's alma mater.

Austin American-Statesman

Vol. 40, No. 90

A Good Newspaper Every Day

Austin, Texas, Sunday, September 27, 1964

9 Parts - 128 Pages 20 Cents

Austin American-Statesman



American-Statesman/UPI

BIG LITTLE MEETING — Lee Wright and Robert Anderson, members of Little People of America, talk to Carol Swenson, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Swenson, 1200 Crestwood. About 45 midgets and dwarfs gathered at the home of the Swensons and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Clifton, Carol's grandparents. Carol is the

only full-sized person in the household, including her two sisters. The Little People met Saturday to discuss plans for bringing a national LPA convention to Austin next year. Wright, from Hooks, Texas, is the chairman of the Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana district. Anderson is from San Antonio.

From the desk of:
DAVID ROBERTSON

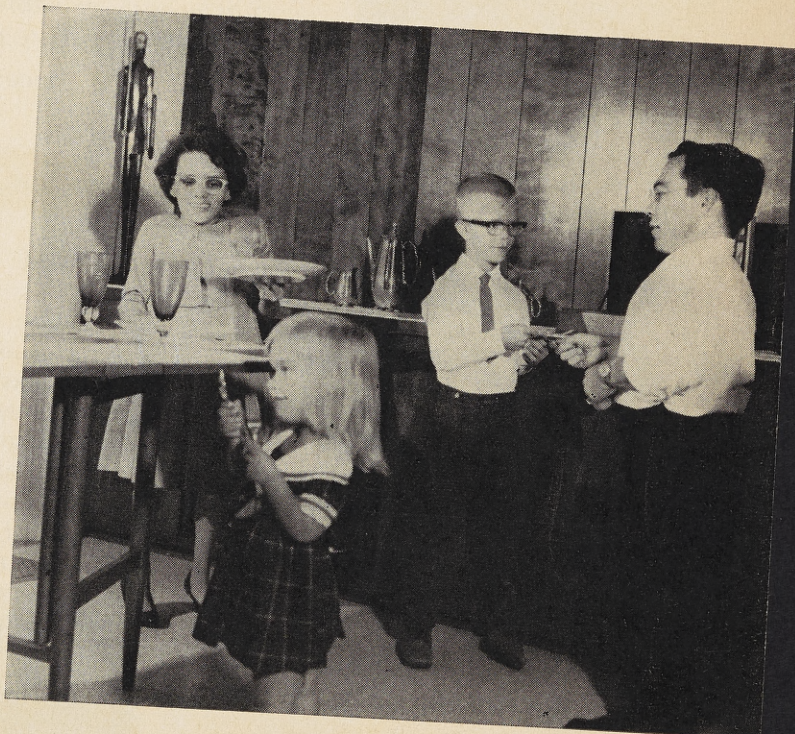
Congratulations

Methodists

"ANY PERSON who is different," says Lee Kitchens, "has trouble adjusting to it and adjusting to society." Lee, four feet one and president of Little People of America, has forged a productive life for himself and his family, and he wants to help others. LPA has 1,100 of the country's estimated 5,000 little people on its rolls, and Lee is looking for the rest. Besides fellowship, the group provides such practical information as how to get a job, adopt children, and find furniture. Some members are taking part in research to give others hope for normal growth.

Lee, his wife Mary, and their two adopted "little littles," Sandra, four, and Alan, eight, live in a new, eight-room house at 938 Blue Lake Circle, Richardson, Texas. Lee is an engineer at Texas Instruments in Dallas, where the Kitchenses are leaders at Preston Hollow Methodist Church. □

*In their specially designed Texas home,
Lee Kitchens and his family of little people enjoy
a comfortable world that is within their reach.*



Little People Make Contribution to Church, Community

Lee Kitchens stands 4 feet 1 inch tall, but he is not a little man. By any test of spiritual, social and psychological adjustment, and economic success, he is taller than many who stand six feet high.

Born of normal sized parents, Lee grew up in Boulevard Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and for the first few years was not aware that there was any difference between him and his friends. But as the years stretched out and his legs didn't, young Lee began to sense a difference. He realized he was not a normal sized person.

"Any person who is different", says Lee, "has trouble adjusting to it himself and in adjusting to society. In addition to one's own inner difficulty, society adds to the problem."

Lee is quick to note that society does not necessarily mean to make the handicapped person's load heavier. People just tend to be overprotective. To an abnormally small person they often say, "You're too little to help here, or you are too small to hold this job." Or, as Lee began to notice along about the 8th grade, a little person just begins to feel he does not fit.

But Lee Kitchens and his wife, Mary, who stands a slight 3' 11" have both made an enviable adjustment not matched by many whose problems are less severe.

Spiritual Victory

The Kitchens' spiritual victory is undeniable. Neither of them show any sense of pity for themselves or rancor toward their fate or their God. To their own credit and to the credit of the Christian fellowship, Lee and Mary have made their way into places of leadership in Preston Hollow Methodist Church in Dallas.

Rev. Fred Adams, pastor of the church reports they are not

Interesting Methodists Of Texas

only faithful in worship and busy in the activities of the church, but the members are hardly aware that they stand from 12 to 24 inches shorter than most adult members of the congregation.

Lee and Mary are members of the Co-Wed Sunday School Class and Mary is a member of the W.S.C.S., while Lee is active in the Methodist Men. He is also a member of the official board and has served as chairman of the Commission on Missions.

Their psychological and social adjustment is as remarkable as their spiritual victory. Sound mental health requires that you recognize you are different and adjust to that fact. There is no hush-hush attitude about their short stature in the Kitchens household.

Leads National Organization

These two unusual Methodists call themselves "Little People" and both are proud of Lee's election as president of the "Little People of America." The purpose of the organization is to gather Little People together to create an understanding of their mutual problems and help them adjust to society.

Lee enthusiastically describes the organization and work of LPA. LPA began in 1958 when 20 persons and Bill Barty, a well-known show personality who is himself a Little Person, put together a mailing list. Their purpose was to contact Little People and make themselves available for whatever service they could give.

In 1960, Ralph Edwards of "This Is Your Life" fame gave the movement a big lift when he featured Billy Barty on his TV program. As a result of that meeting in 1958 and the publicity given by Ralph Edwards, a national organization came into being with Billy Barty as its first president.

Annual conventions have been held each year since 1960. The 1965 convention is scheduled for Gloucester, New Jersey. During the 1960 convention, Lee and Mary aligned themselves with the newly organized group. In July, 1964 Lee was elected president. LPA now has 14 regional districts. On the mailing list are 1250 of the estimated 7500 Little People in America.

LPA, Lee points out, is the only organization in America in which Little People can share common problems and seek solutions. It also offers an outlet for service. The father of two adopted children, Lee is dedicated to the organization as a benefit to the child.

Little People's Children

The children who are small are called "Little Littles". Parents of Little Littles often need someone to talk to about problems arising in the rearing of their children. For example, a child of 9 or 10 may sense his smallness in comparison to other children in school or Sunday School. Teen-agers have problems of friendship and courtship. LPA gives their parents an opportunity to share solutions each have found. Recently they have organized an auxiliary for normal sized parents who have Little Littles.

Assistance in research is another practical program for LPA. LPA members are offering themselves as "guinea pigs" through the interest of Dr. Leonard O. Langer, a radiologist in

the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. Dr. Langer became interested in the study of dwarfism (not all Little People are dwarfs) because one of his children is a Little Little. He contacted LPA and the organization quickly agreed to assist him in his research.

Adoption services have become an important part of LPA, according to President Lee Kitchens. It has sought to discover Little Littles needing to be adopted and put them in contact with members who are seeking children. This is done only through recognized agencies.

Employment of Little People

Employment assistance is also a vital part of the LPA program. Many jobs are closed to Little People, but many could be made available to them if employers knew their ability and availability, or Little People knew where or how to look for employment. For a long while, Little People have been in show business.

Recreation with people of their own size opens new vistas of fun and fellowship often denied even in the most friendly social and religious gatherings of normal sized people. LPA, particularly at its conventions, provides an opportunity for happy times together with people of our own size, Lee points out.

Business Success

Material success plays a part in every normal American's life and Lee Kitchens is no exception. The 4th president of LPA lives with his family in a new contemporary brick home at 938 Blue Lake Circle in suburban Richardson, Texas. The 8 room artistically designed home is itself a silent symbol of Lee's vocational success.

As a student in Southern Methodist University's co-operative engineering program which combines class room experience with employment in a local industry, Lee was employed by Texas Instruments, Inc. Today he is head of Technical Services Engineering of the Power Department.

The Kitchens' recently built home has been carefully designed to meet their special needs. Upon entering, a visitor does not sense any particular difference from a home for normal sized people. But the Kitchens will gladly take a visitor on a tour of the house and point out how it has been designed for their convenience without destroying its marketability.

Two-Car Family

Outside two cars sit in the circle drive. They are equipped with simple extensions for brake and accelerator pedals. A specially designed seat sits snugly in the regular seat and provides back support and compensates for their small stature.

With no hint of self-consciousness, Lee and Mary willingly explain and demonstrate the many physical adjustments they have incorporated into their home to make for comfortable living.

The family life of the Kitchens goes on at normal pace. Sandra, age 4, and Alan, age 8, adjust in their own way to the life they already realize is destined to be different from others. Fortunately for them, they have parents who have helped to make life happy and normal as those of the children around them. The other children in the block play with Sandra and Alan as with any other children. They enjoy visiting the Kitchens home and if they sense any difference between the Kitchens and their parents, they have not shown it.

One interesting point, Little Sandra seeks to compensate for an area of life that is different for her. Whereas another child

might desire cookies, candy or pennies from a visitor, Sandra begs to be picked up. Undoubtedly, she sees other little children picked up by their parents and does not fully understand that hers are too little to hoist her onto their hip or shoulders.

Both Lee and Mary readily admit that solving the problem of marital happiness has helped many other problems fall into place. Little People seldom grow up with other Little People, and they soon realize that marriage may well escape them. Lee points out that marriages between Little People and normal-sized people are the exception rather than the rule, and sometimes do not work out.

College Courtship

It was, therefore, a lucky day when one of Lee's SMU classmates arranged a blind date with the then Mary Perryman, a fine arts student at Texas Women's University. Mary grew up in Lubbock, Texas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Perryman. Mr. Perryman is a teacher at Texas Tech., consequently, she had lived with normal size people all her life.

Mary recalls she had never met another Little Person and when she met Lee for the first time, it was an emotional shock. She was glad when the first date was over and she was not sure she wanted to see him again. But soon they were going steady. They were married at St. John's Methodist Church in Lubbock on July 31, 1955.

Lee and Mary moved into their new home in February, 1963. It was more than a token of their economic success and social adjustment. Its careful design, thoughtfully planned for comfort and pleasure is a monument to the providence of God which brought Lee and Mary together, and gave them the fulfillment of a genuine love and the happiness of a normal family life.



Family portrait of Lee and Mary Kitchens and Alan, 8, and Sandra, age 4.



Even the children can help in this specially designed house furnished with low, out-of-stock contemporary pieces.

THE TEXAS

Mercy and Truth are Met Together

Psalms 85:10

METHODIST



Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

— Hebrews 12:2

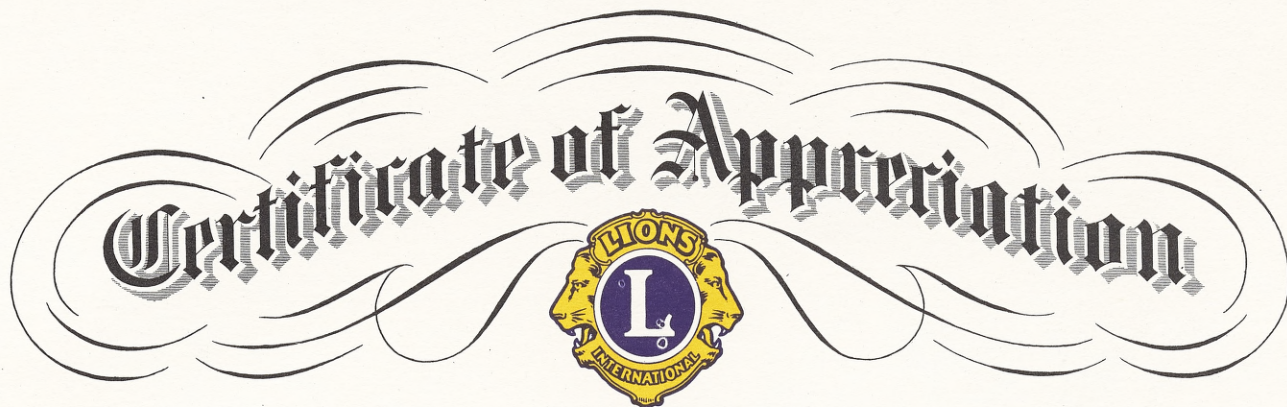
JUST FLYIN' 'ROUND TO WISH YOU A VERY

Merry Christmas



LEE, MARY, ALAN & SANDRA KITCHENS

(Pilot, Co-Pilot & Turbulence Creators) ~ 1965



May it be Known that
This Certificate has been presented to
Lee Kitchens

by
Wynnewood Lions Club

In appreciation of the invaluable services and cooperation extended

Presented this 14th day of January 1965

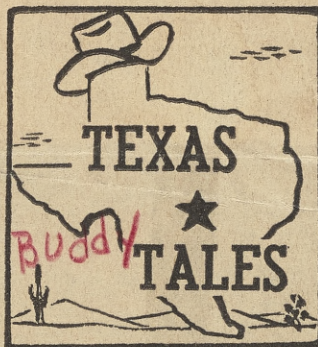
Wm. D. Galt
Secretary

James W. Hightower
President

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Austin Statesman
Austin, Texas

JAN 20 1965



By DON FAIRCHILD
Staff Writer

DALLAS—The permanent vantage point of Lee Kitchens is as if the average man were down on his knees looking up at the world. Kitchens, standing only 4-feet-1 in a 6-foot world, is a dwarf—one of this nation's approximately 5,000 "little people."

He cannot take a casual drink from a public fountain. He cannot easily use a pay telephone. He must tiptoe to see over a bank counter. He has to stretch to reach a normal wall light switch.

Yet, despite it all, Lee Kitchens is not really a little man—measures by the yardstick of social and economic success and personal accomplishment. He is an electrical engineer at the Texas Instruments, Inc., complex where he heads a test equipment group. And last July he was elected president of the Little People of America, which has 1,100 members.

Weather

Clear to partly cloudy and no important change in temperature through Tuesday.

The Winkler County News 10¢

Vol. 31-No. 37

Kermit, Winkler County, Texas

Monday, July 24, 1967

'Little Persons' Can Make Out All Right, Says Their Leader

By CHARLES A. RICHARDS
United Press International

RICHARDSON, Tex., April 17.—“Some people with big freckles and red hair think only another fella with big freckles and red hair can understand them,” he said, his feet not quite touching the floor as he rocked back and forth.

He worked his way out of the chair and walked across the room. “That’s where we come in,” he added, then lifted himself onto the sofa and continued.

“We don’t really look on ourselves as handicapped. We’re different and we realize that. And we know we have to make some compensations to get along, but we don’t have to do that at a loss of dignity, self-respect or anything else.”

With that, Lee Kitchens, 35, summed up the message he has to offer to anyone who goes through life as a midget or dwarf.

STANDING JUST a shade over four feet tall, Kitchens is

a little man in a world dominated by big people. He is president of Little People of America, Inc.

About 400 “little persons” throughout the United States belong and meet each summer at a week-long convention to visit socially and exchange solutions to the nuisances that plague them.

There is some sensitivity about the labels “midget” and “dwarf,” and most prefer to be called “little persons,” according to Kitchens. Both categories make up the organi-

zation’s membership—the midget, who is perfectly proportioned but small, and the dwarf, who has a normal head and body but short legs and arms.

KITCHENS IS A dwarf. His parents were normal in all respects. His father was about 6 feet 2 inches and there was no history in the family of anyone less than normal height.

Kitchens was hired by Texas Instruments, Inc., while he was still attending Southern Methodist University. Now in

his 13th year at the firm, he is in charge of more than 20 engineers.

Kitchens wife, Mary, is 3 feet 11 inches tall, a dwarf also and a graduate of Texas Woman’s University.

THEIR CHILDREN, Sandra, 6, and Alan, 8, were adopted from an adoption agency after x-ray tests and other examinations showed they would be dwarfs, like their parents. The family lives in this Dallas suburb.

Kitchens denies that little

people have any great problems.

“Just nuisances we have to learn to put up with,” he said.

But he cited three crucial periods in life for little people.

THE ORGANIZATION urges teen-agers to compensate for their inability to compete in sports by concentrating in other areas in which they can excel. They can participate in bowling or golf, or any sport which doesn’t require running.

Kitchens lettered four years in high-school football

by playing the role of trainer and manager.

The first chore in rehabilitating a little adult often is to knock a chip off his shoulder.

“But they can have a successful adult life like anyone else,” Kitchens said. “And that’s where other little people like us can help them.”

IF JUST ONE letter of inquiry a month is received at Box 126, Owatonna, Minn., the organization feels that month is a success.

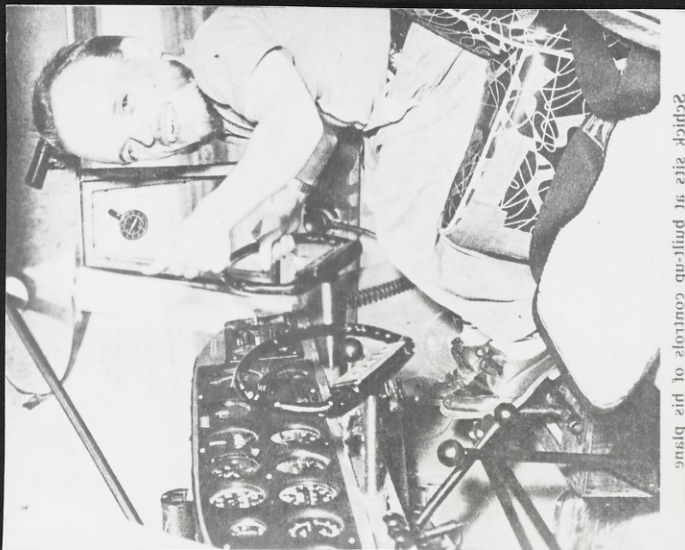
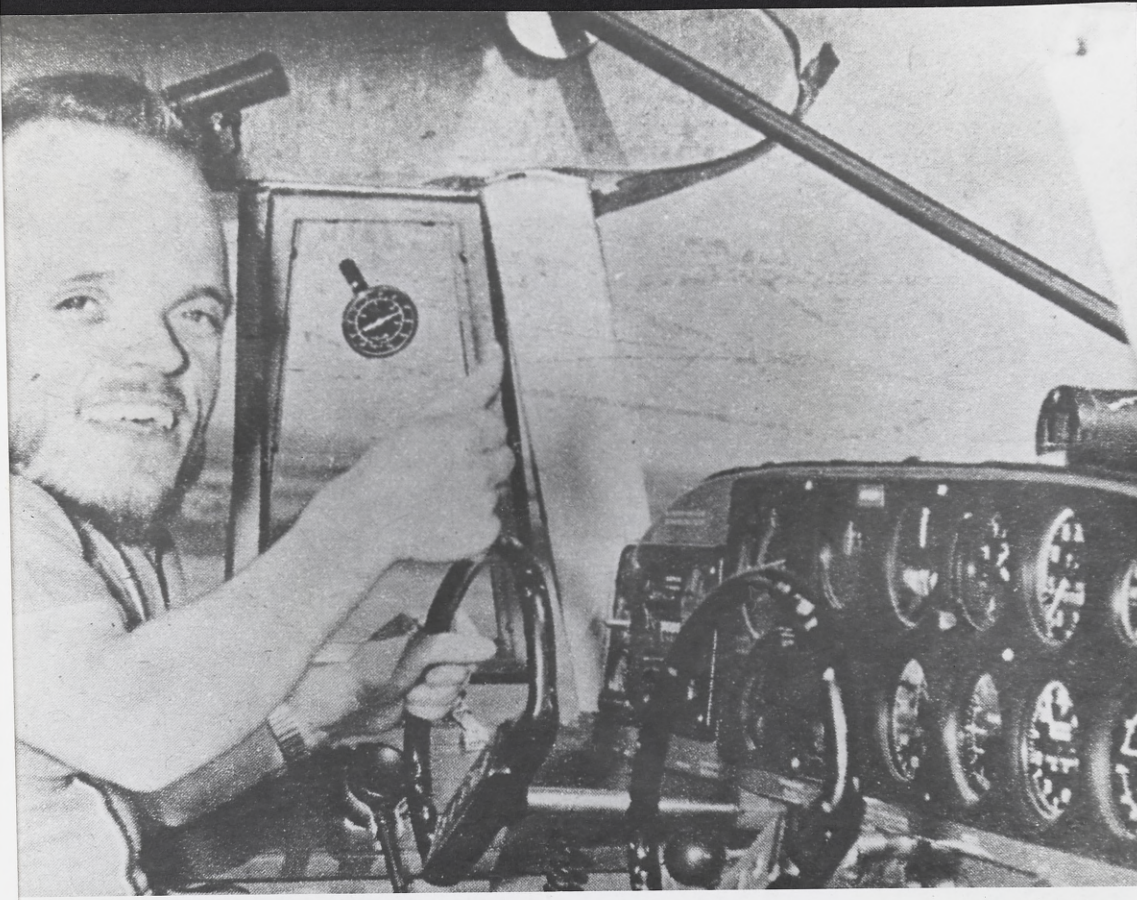
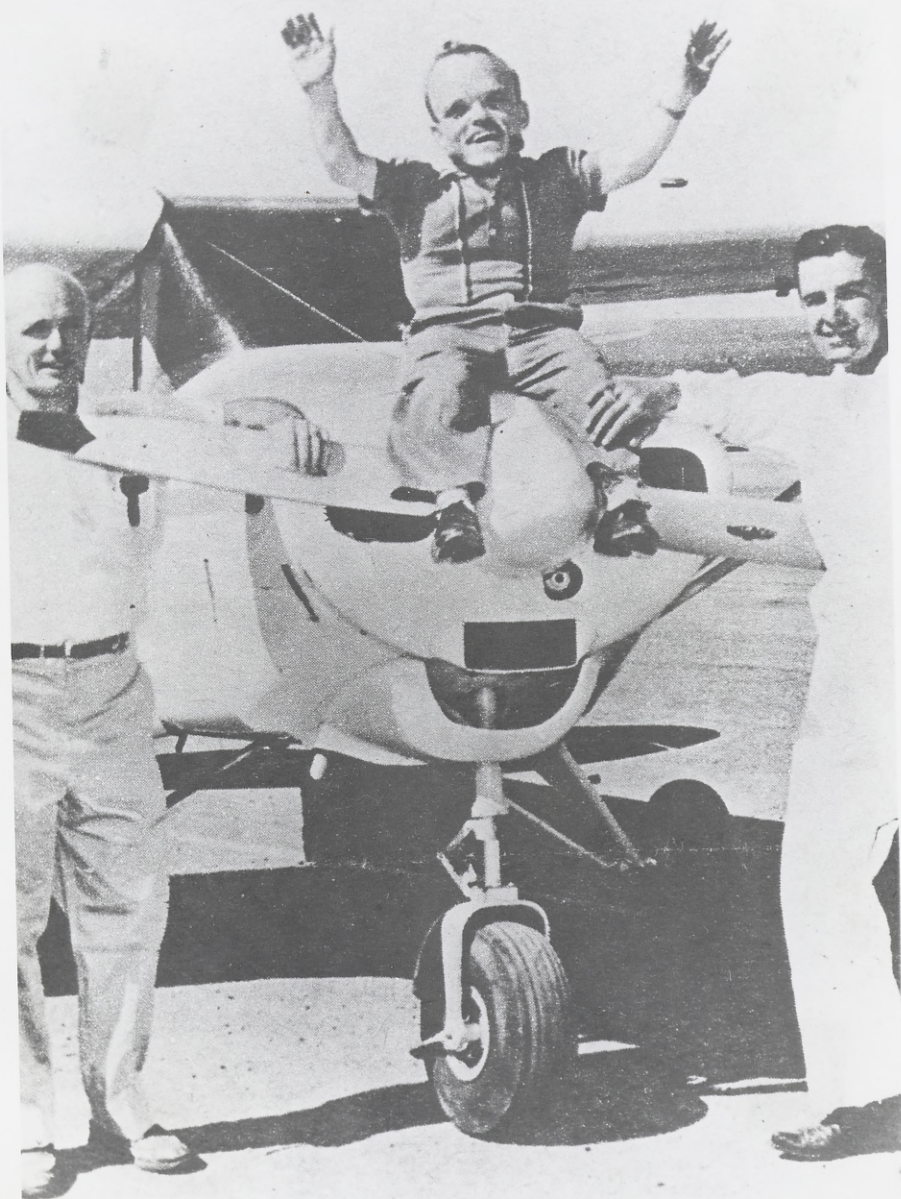
The Seattle Times 9
Sunday, April 18, 1965

A common misconception is to think of the little person as able to get a job only in a circus or show business.

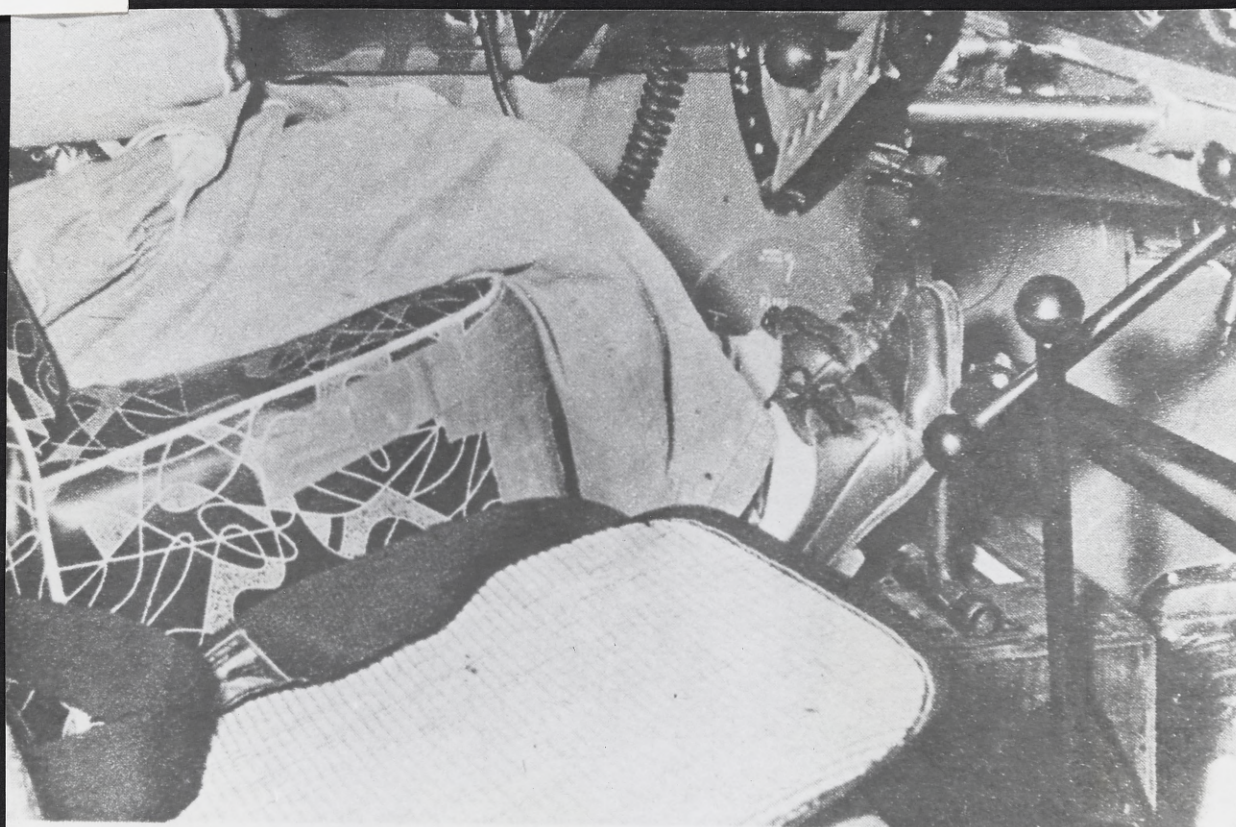
“Just name an occupation and 99 times out of a hundred I can give you the name of a little person doing that work,” Kitchens said.

Clothes and transportation rate the most troublesome day-to-day problems.

Clothes are either bought and then altered or custom made.



Schick sits at built-up controls of his plane



Schick sits at built-up controls of his plane

Although only 44 inches tall, Freddie Schick, 31, of Rapid City, S. D., recently soloed his own plane. Instructor Art Grane (left) said Schick, a state police radio dispatcher, "did very well" during his 15-minute solo flight. The aircraft, which has built-up controls to accommodate Schick, was rebuilt by Verne Kraemer (right), shop manager for Snedigar Flying Service in Rapid City, and was approved by the federal aeronautics commission. Schick still has a long way to go to compile 20 hours of dual instruction and 20 hours of solo piloting for a private pilot's license.

Photos by Ken Jumper, Rapid City Daily Journal



Staff Photo—Dwight Ross Jr.

'LITTLE PEOPLE' GET TOGETHER FOR CHAT AT CONVENTION
L-R: Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Duckworth

Little People Flock Here For a Big Time and Talk

By ACHSAH NESMITH

The Little People are here. They'll be in Atlanta all week-end, mostly to have a good time. It's their biggest meeting of the year.

They began to arrive Friday afternoon for the District 4 meeting of the Little People of America at the downtown Holiday Inn. Their district director, Albert Boeckel, and his wife, who is also one of the little people, will arrive Saturday morning. They run the "Midget Grocery" in Dalton.

Roy Bridges, district secretary, said little people from all over the district — Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee — will be here, and probably several from other districts around the country. "We like to get together, and anybody that can make it usually goes to district meetings," he said. He expects some from as far away as New York.

"We can look eyeball to eyeball with each other instead of having to look up all the time at you tall people," he laughed.

The group started their meeting with a banquet Friday night and a trip to the Braves' baseball game. Saturday they'll have business meetings and a luncheon, with more social activities.

Little People, who don't like the terms midget and dwarf, are generally under five feet tall, some of whom are small because of pituitary problems

which cause them to stop growing very early, or achonroplastics, who may have bodies the size of "tall people's" but short legs and arms.

The organization tries to help little people adjust to their situation, and help the families of youngsters who will be little people understand and adjust to their children's smallness. Generally, unless they are crippled in some way, the little people have normal health and can do most anything taller people can do except reach things on top shelves.

"If employers give us a chance, we can do the job," Bridges said. He was with the Alien Property Commission in Washington for 25 years, until it was terminated after returning the property of Germans and Japanese held during the war years. Then he returned to Georgia about 6 months ago. He now runs the mail room for Southeastern Personnel Inc. here.

"When they interviewed me they said it would be a 'heavy job' and asked me if I could handle it. I told the man I might not could do it his way, but if I could do it my way I could," and things have gone fine ever since.

He uses small stools to make up for his height and has extensions on the pedals of his small foreign car.

"I was lucky. I grew up in a small town in South Carolina

near Augusta and everybody knew me. Nobody ever pointed or yelled midget at me until after I was old enough to understand," he said. But he thinks most of the old cruelties are things of the past.

Caught early, pituitary problems can be aided with human pituitary extract, which is very scarce. Researchers are attempting to synthesize it, which would be a major breakthrough.

Sometimes when two little people marry—and they often do—they have "little" children, but not always. Bridges said one little couple here has one son nearly six feet tall and another who is small like them.

One of the problems some little people have as children is that other children are always picking them up "like dolls" he said.

In addition to enjoying each other's company, the Little People are working on a nationwide scholarship fund to help young little people go to college, and planning their upcoming national convention in Hollywood, Calif. They have over 3,000 members nationally, and a sort of "children's auxiliary," Bridges said.

Think we got a very good write-up. The radio stations plugged us all week-end. We had about 31 or 32 including Fran from Tenn. None from North Carolina area or Fla. Wish it were possible to get to Calif. this summer but have such a short time off and still behind on catching up on expenses of moving, etc. Might take a long week-end and drive the VW up to Chicago and see Jackie and the crowd there. I am anxious to take a "long" trip in the car instead of just running around town.

How about this boss of mine - I was so surprised to receive the telegram as he is so busy with opening new offices, travelling, etc. that I didn't think he'd think about his mail clerk.

ROY

934A EDT MAY 20 67 A271
A LVI09 FO ATLANTA GA ED 900A EDT
LEROY BRIDGES, LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA CONVENTION
HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN ATLA
I WISH FOR YOU A MOST SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION STOP ITS PEOPLE
LIKE YOU THAT MAKE PEOPLE LIKE US GLAD TO BE WORKING WITH PEOPLE
LIKE YOU
SOUTHEASTERN PERSONNEL
BOY V MILLER
(32).

WESTERN UNION

**I KNOW I'M
SOMEBODY**



**'cause God don't
make no junk!!**



PROTECT YOUR CHILD, INC.

P.O. Box 414 San Lorenzo, California 94580 (415) 276-2350

-Sunday, Oct. 20, 1968

'Little People'

Kitchens Finds
His 'High' PlaceBy TOMMY AYRES
Staff Writer

Lee Kitchens lives in a world of giants. These giants' chairs are too tall, their tables too high. The phones in their booths are out of reach — it is impossible to drink at their public fountains.

Kitchens is a dwarf. Yet strangely, at only four feet, he stands taller than most men.

At Addison Airport, he stepped down from the cockpit of his own airplane, folded a flight plan and talked about a world where you always look up.

"JUST BECAUSE you happen to be handicapped, you can't expect the world to change for you," he said. "Sometimes you just have to overcome your handicap and change the world."

Kitchens should know — he is an expert on adjustment.

In Richardson, he and his wife Mary and their two adopted children live in a better than

middle - class custom - built brick home filled with custom - built fixtures and furniture. All are "little people."

In the garage are two late - model cars, especially equipped with extensions on brakes, clutches and accelerators.

Kitchens is an engineer for Ling-Temco-Vought, Inc. He is an avid civic worker. He is a rabid aviator.

"I always loved airplanes," he says. "I got a big kick out of building models. Then one day I asked myself — 'why not learn to fly?'"

What followed is typical of the Kitchens method of operation. The first thing he did was buy himself an airplane. Then he spent almost four months having it modified so that he could comfortably reach all the controls.

THEN THERE was the problem of getting the whole package approved by exacting Federal Aviation Agency inspectors.



—Staff Photo

Lee Kitchens and wife Mary check out flight plan.

Richardson school boy
treated for dwarfism

By FLORENCE MASON

Women's Editor

Steve LaMar is 11 years old and only 3 feet, 9 3/4 inches tall. His 7-year-old brother, David, is about 4 inches taller.

No, Steve wasn't the victim of a disease — in fact he hasn't even had the usual childhood diseases. He wasn't "zapped" by a ray gun of a comic-strip character. The reason for his small stature is that he is a hypopituitary dwarf.

This means Steve's pituitary gland is "lazy" and doesn't produce the hormones his body needs for growth.

Steve is getting help, however. His mother, Mrs. Richard LaMar, explained that this type of dwarfism can be helped with human growth hormone.

The only known source of this hormone is from a pituitary gland. Individuals sometimes specify that their pituitary be taken at their death, or, in the case of minors, a parent or guardian consents to the gland's removal.

The glands are collected by the National Pituitary Agency and the hormone is distributed to doctors whose patients need it.

Mrs. LaMar, who had three older children, said Steve grew normally until he was about 3 when he seemed to stop growing. A pediatrician finally sent the LaMars and Steve to a doc-

tor at Southwestern Medical School where his dwarfism was diagnosed.

Steve was started on hormone injections in July, 1968, took them for six months and grew four inches. The injections were stopped until May, 1970, when he was put on them again for almost six months. His next series started in July, 1972, and were given for seven months. Each of the last two periods, he grew three inches.

Mrs. LaMar said the injections are not given continuously because children can develop an immunity to them and then they won't help at all. He's not getting them now.

After a series, Steve is given various tests and x-rays and his progress is charted.

Being small hasn't kept Steve from participating in activities. He has been in Cubs and Webelos and now is going into Boy Scouts. He is a swimmer and currently taking tennis lessons. Next fall, he'll be a sixth grader.

Steve's mother is 5 feet, 6 inches and his father, 5 feet, 11. Others in the family are a married brother, Jim; Mike, 16, and Diane, 13.

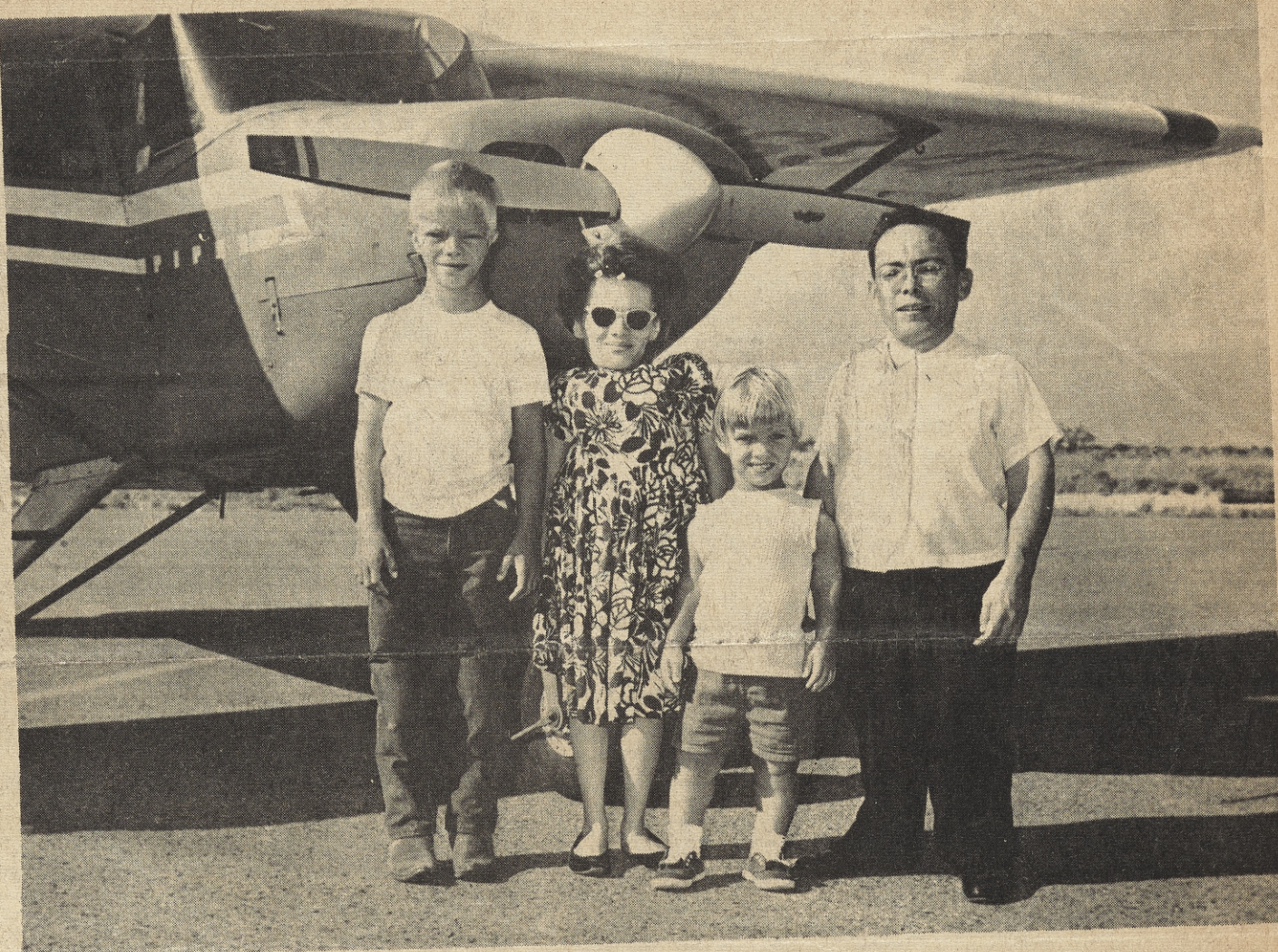
The LaMars are one of 20 sets of parents in the area who belong to a chapter of the Human Growth Foundation, headquartered in Baltimore, Md. It is through this Foundation, arrangements are made

to obtain the necessary hormone for injections.

Not all types of dwarfism are, as yet, treatable, however, and most of the funds collected by the Foundation are being used for research.

Locally, the Foundation raises money through dues of \$5 a year, money-making projects and gifts. The Richardson Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma last week gave the Foundation a \$630 contribution.

The group's contribution was a portion of the money raised in its annual Flower Fair, which netted slightly over \$1,400 this year. A check for \$250 was given to the Notre Dame Rehabilitation Center, which will open on the University of Dallas campus in Irving in August with 30 mentally handicapped students between the ages of 16 and 21 who are educable and trainable. One hundred dollars was given to public television channel 13 and the remainder to national sorority philanthropies.



FLIERS VISIT — Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens and their two children stand beside their Piper Tri-Pacer just before taking off from Winkler County Airport Friday morning. They were enroute to Los Angeles to attend the national

convention of Little People of America, Inc. Kitchens is president of the organization. Their son, Alan, 11 is at left and their daughter, Sandra, 7, stands between her parents. (Staff Photo)

Flying Family Spends Night Here; Enroute to Little People Meeting

BY MAUD GREEN

Four of the most delightful people ever to visit Kermit took off from Winkler County Airport about 9:30 a.m. Friday in their Piper Tri-Pacer, headed for the Los Angeles area.

They were going to attend the National Convention of Little People of America, Inc. They had landed at Winkler County Airport Thursday afternoon and spent the night here in a motel.

The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens and their adopted children, Alan 11, and Sandra 7, of Richardson. Kitchens is president of the national organization. More than 200 Little People were expected to attend the convention.

The Kitchens were cleared out of Dallas about 2:30 p.m. with a flight plan for which they kept extending as favorable flying conditions continued later in the afternoon. The plan was closed when they reached Winkler's airport.

Being Little People is no handicap to Lee and Mary Kitchens. They are intelligent, friendly, energetic and a pleasure to talk with. He is an

engineer for Texas Instruments Company in Dallas and learned to fly about two years ago. Mrs. Kitchens began flying instructions about the same time as her husband but, for various reasons, didn't receive her pilot's license until about a year ago. She says she's a better navigator than her husband and she likes that part really better than being at the controls.

Viewing the inside of the Piper is interesting. The seats, panel board and everything necessary to operate the plane have been adjusted and arranged to give safe and convenient control of the vehicle.

Nancy Brumlow, who with her husband, Jimmie, operates flying facilities of the airport, is one to mother all pilots who land at the airport. She brought the Kitchens family into Kermit, delivered them to a motel and returned them Friday morning to the airport.

As he was preparing to take off, it was evident that Lee Kitchens is a methodical pilot who takes no chances. While waiting for his wife, he remarked, "Time for the ground shake-down." More than a dozen points of his plane were inspected before he was satisfied things were in order.

After his family had extended their thanks and good-byes and were aboard the plane, Kitchens taxied down the runway and they soon were airborne, with a flight plan including El Paso . . . maybe Tucson, Ariz.

What is the purpose of the National Convention of Little People?

Kitchens left a pamphlet which

is very interesting:

"It is often difficult for some of us to meet other little people for the first time. We are used to living in the 'big world' and often do not wish to admit to ourselves that we are different from other people in some way. But, regardless of this feeling, the same problems are present with each of us and meeting others with those problems opens a new world of understanding, friendship and enjoyment.

ship and enjoyment.

"The general purpose of LPA, as we often call it, is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, solutions to unique problems of a little person and moral support.

"What about the children? We call them our 'Little Littles.' The small children, whether they have normal or small parents, are of great concern to us. Because they seem to gain as much or more than their elders from contact with other small children, they have their own program and activities in addition to the regular convention program.

"Who are these people and where are they? They are people who, for one reason or another, are considerably smaller in stature than others. They are accountants, bookkeepers, artists, lawyers . . . almost every occupation or employment you can think of.

"A small person can live in two worlds — a small world and a normal world. A person who finds happiness in both worlds has nothing to lose to society or himself."

After meeting the Kitchens, I'd like to suggest one change in the pamphlet . . . the sentence "they are considerably smaller in stature than most" . . . that could well read "they are considerably smaller in physical stature than most . . ."

Faith knows, they stand taller than lots of folks you and I know, when it comes to good citizenship, a love of life and their fellowman and an independence which neither expects nor accepts any special consideration.

Five Firemen Attend A&M Training School

Five Kermit Volunteer Firemen attended the 38th annual Firemen's Training School held July 16-21 at Texas A&M University.

They are Delton McAnally, Bob Logan, Richard Goertz, Gene Crutcher and G. C. Bee-man.

More than 2,200 firemen attended the school. Texas towns sending firemen to the school receive key rate credit for their insurance rates according to the number of firemen participating. Cities sponsoring one qualified fireman who completed the work successfully receive three per cent credit. Those who sponsor a fireman and fire marshal or assistant fire marshal, get four per cent credit. Cities with two or more firemen and the fire marshal gain a five per cent credit.

Committee to Meet Monday

Members of the Retail Affairs Committee of Kervit Chamber of Commerce are to meet today (Monday) at 3 p.m. in Chamber offices.

Main item on the agenda will be reviewing final plans for Saturday's Krazy Daze.



McKUSICK & FRIENDS AT BALTIMORE PARTY
Definition comes before treatment.

GENETICS

The Little People

Assembling more than 250 dwarfs and midgets for a lawn party and a whirl of dances may seem like a Barnum and Bailey act, but last week that many members of an organization called the Little People of America convened in Baltimore for medically scientific as well as social reasons. The hosts were Dr. Victor A. McKusick and 15 colleagues at the Moore Clinic of Johns Hopkins Hospital, the nation's leading investigators into the causes of dwarfism and possible remedies for it. Their invited guests were essential past and future participants in Moore Clinic research.

The Little People's organization was founded in 1957 by Billy Barty, one of the few who conform to the popular misconception that most midgets are in show business. Barty is, and has done well.* Now 43, Barty stands 3 ft. 9 in. He arrived with Wife Shirley, 4 ft. 3 in., and their daughter Lori, who at age five measures 3 ft. 1 in. Anthropometrists say Lori probably will never top 4 ft. 7 in., so the Little People classify her as "Little Little."

Medically Oriented. McKusick's team had already examined most of the association members, piecing together family trees, taking blood and cell specimens to study chromosomes and hormones and X-raying joints to look

at cartilage-bone defects. A great deal of work remains to be done, so 18 Little People arrived days ahead of time. They were admitted to the hospital for detailed tests by orthopedists, ophthalmologists, and otolaryngologists. Especially concerned were the gynecologists, for dwarf women's babies usually have to be delivered by caesarean section. Of the dozen conventions the Little People have had, this was by far the most medically oriented. To handle all the examinations, a temporary hospital room was set up in the Lord Baltimore Hotel, convention headquarters.

All this work is necessary, says McKusick, because to treat or prevent dwarfism it first must be clearly defined. That is not as easy as it sounds. Beyond the rough classification of midgets as people of short but otherwise normal body build, and dwarfs as having some other physical abnormality in addition to short stature, McKusick lists 20 different conditions as causes of sub-normal growth. Among the conventioners, he found at least one representative of almost all the types, and some who appeared to fit no known category, suggesting that the classification table will now have to be extended.

"We have," says McKusick, "been paying special attention to the children, whose growth is not complete, whose epiphyses [the growing ends of long bones] haven't yet closed. We have more than 30 of them here." The hope is that some of these children can be helped, by injections of human growth hormone, to grow to 5 ft. or more, in which case they would no longer qualify as Little People.

Concession to Bigness. The likeliest candidates for this help are children with otherwise normal physiques whose pituitary glands do not produce enough of the hormone. Even for them the supply problem is forbidding. Growth hormone from animals is useless for man unless it is specially processed, and little of this is now produced. Human growth hormone must be extracted, in minute quantities, from the pituitaries of cadavers. Each year the National Pituitary Agency in Baltimore gets about 75,000 of these glands, mostly from pathologists exploring the skull in post-mortem examinations. The agency supplies the Hopkins with extracts from the glands. It takes the hormone from 150 or more glands to treat one child for a year. For victims of the commonest type of dwarfism, achondroplasia, marked by short limbs, large heads and "scooped out" noses, no hormonal or other treatment is effective.

Regardless of whether they can be helped to grow, most of the Little People are determined to show that they can compete on an equal basis with big people in today's world and do not have to fall back upon the circus for a livelihood. Robert Spector, last week's convention chairman, is a Ph.D. working on chemistry patents for Du Pont. Lee Kitchens, an electronics engineer for Texas Instruments and the outgoing Little People's president, literally soared into town, flying his own plane from Richardson, Texas. Since he stands only 4 ft. 1 in., the rudder pedals on his Piper Tri-Pacer have been built up about nine inches to meet his feet.

* As has Michael Dunn (*Ballad of the Sad Café, Ship of Fools*), who missed the Baltimore meeting. He was in Europe making a movie.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER MEMBER AWARD

In recognition of

*Your Outstanding Service to Ninety-Nines
and to General Aviation*

this award is presented to

Mary Kitchens

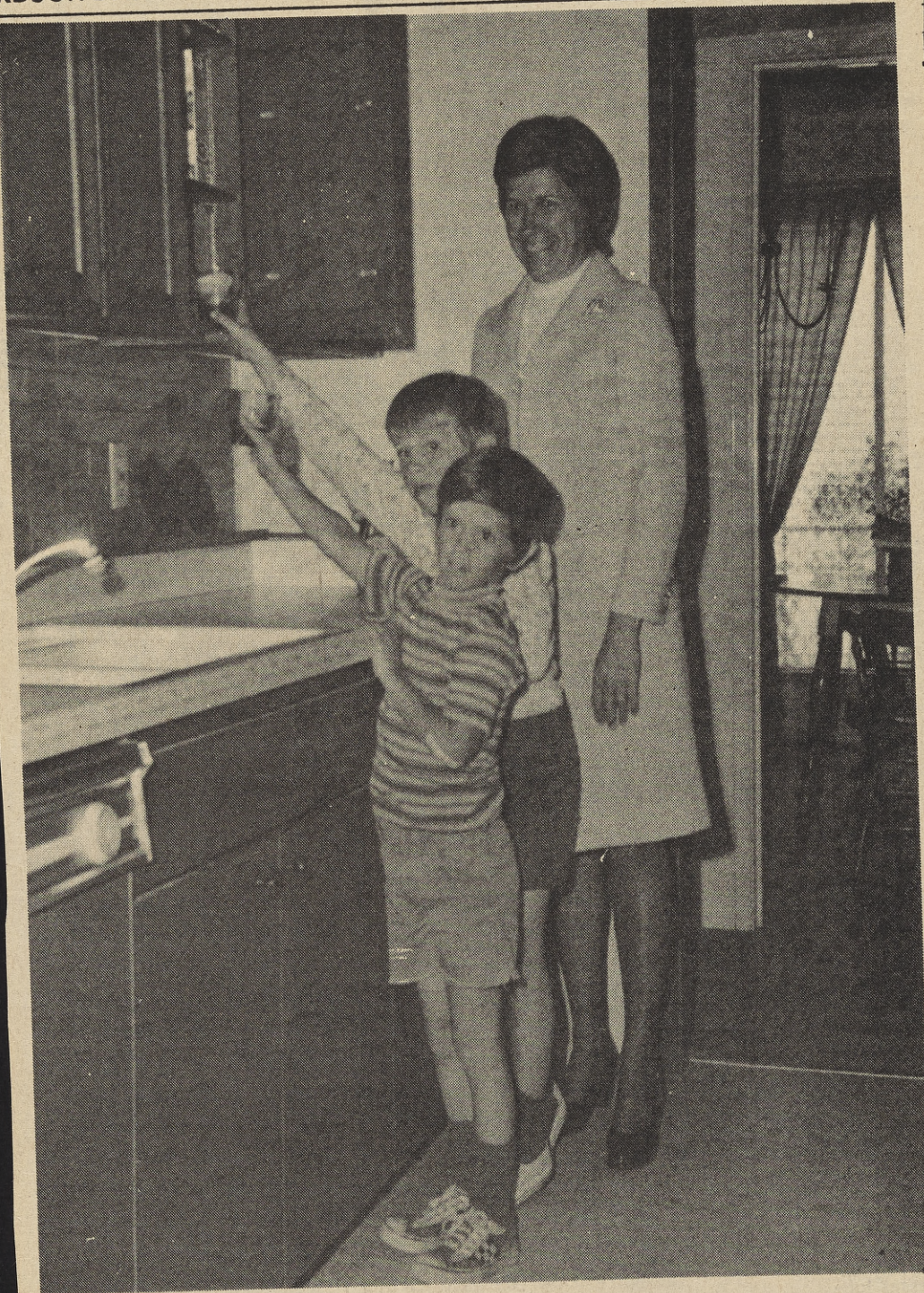
DALLAS CHAPTER

this 20th day of September, 1969.



Gene Sleach
International President, 99's

Paul J. Hottel
SCS Governor, 99's



WHAT SEEMS LIKE A LONG REACH to 11-year-old Steve LaMar, foreground, isn't so far to his younger brother, David. The boys, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard LaMar, demonstrate the differences in their reach in the kitchen at their home, 7717 El Santo. Marilyn Whiteside stands by with a cold drink for the boys. Mrs. Whiteside, was chairman of the Flower Fair for Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae, and delivered a \$650 check to Mrs. LaMar to be used by the Human Growth Foundation for research into problems of growth such as Steve's. Getting things from the shelves is a problem Steve has solved by climbing onto the cabinet.

LITTLE PEOPLE of AMERICA, Inc.

Certificate
of
Appreciation

Presented
to

Lee Kitchens

for

*Chapter President
Houston Chapter*

Paul Jones

VICE PRESIDENT

Lee Kitchens named¹⁹⁸¹ year's top engineer

Lee Kitchens has been chosen as the Outstanding Engineer of the Year for 1978 by the Preston Trail Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Kitchens holds a bachelor of science degree in

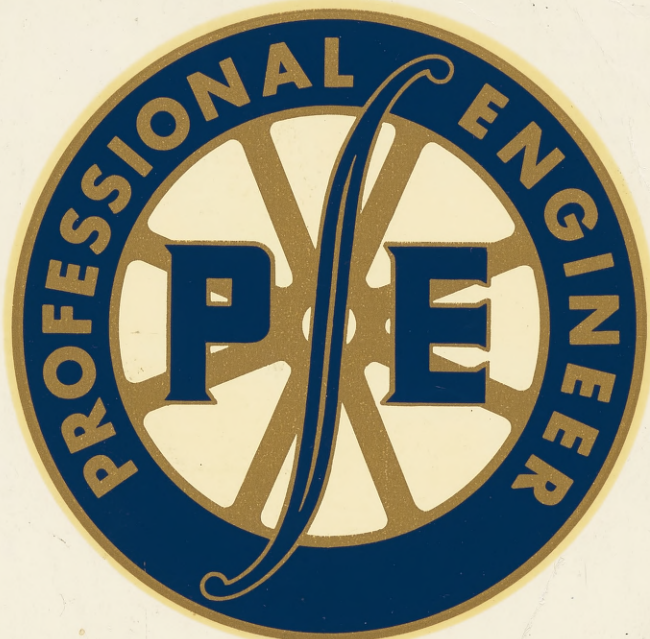
electrical engineering from Southern Methodist University and has been employed by Texas Instruments for over 25 years. Kitchens was instrumental in the development and production of the SR 10 and SR 50 hand-held calculators which revolutionized the calculator industry. He holds six U.S. patents on semiconductor processes, calculators, calculator components, assembly methods and accessories.

Kitchens and his wife and two children reside in Richardson. He is a member of Preston Hollow United Methodist Church and active in many church and civic affairs. He served as Scoutmaster to Troop 77 from 1970 to 1974 and was director of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Dallas in 1977. This year he is vice president.

A dwarf since birth, Kitchen has been actively involved in the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals. In 1977, he was invited as a delegate to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. He has been director of the Little People of America Foundation, Inc., since 1968. He rounds out his interests with home and car repairs, photography and piloting.



Lee Kitchens



THE UNITED METHODIST REPORTER

THE

Explorer

edition



Saint John's United Methodist Church

1501 UNIVERSITY AVENUE LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401

VOLUME 132 NUMBER 43

795

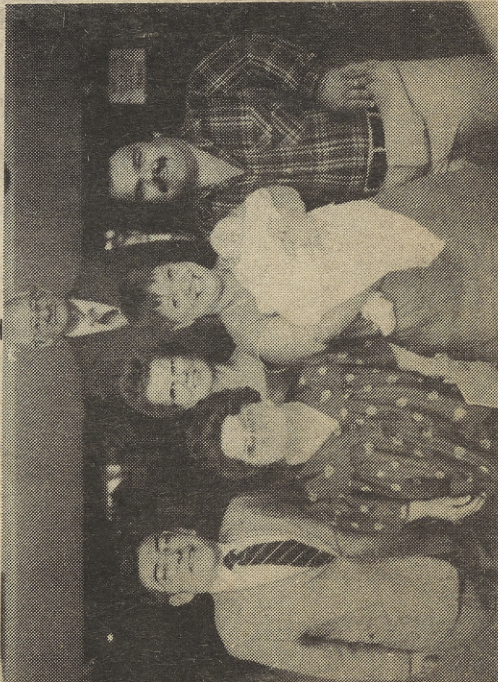
Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

874

MARCH 28, 1986

Adrian Lee Baptized

Sunday morning the church family joined in celebrating the baptism of Adrian Lee, son of Sandra and David Fennimore. Grandfather Lee Kitchens is pictured on the left and Great grandfather C. C. Perryman is standing in the back. Frances and Lynne Billingsley of Snyder, Godmothers, are standing with the family.



★ LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL—Friday Morning, January 29, 1982—A-15

Obituaries



MARY BELLE KITCHENS

Mary Belle Kitchens

Services for Mary Belle Perryman Kitchens, 48, of Lake Ransom Canyon will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. John's United Methodist Church with the Rev. Ted Dotts, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Resthaven Cemetery under direction of Rix Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Kitchens died at her home at 7:40 p.m. Wednesday. Justice of the Peace Wayne LeCroy ruled that the death was by natural causes.

The Lubbock native graduated at Texas Women's University in 1955. She married Lee Kitchens in Lubbock July 31, 1955, and had lived in Lubbock since 1978.

She was national treasurer for the Little People of America Foundation, of which her husband was president from 1964 to 1968. She was chairman of the Lubbock chapter of 99's, a women pilots organization.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Alan of Lubbock; and her father, C.C. Perryman of Lubbock.

Pallbearers will be Fred Jones, Sanford Whitaker, Leon Whetzel, Walter Speed, Bill Cantrell and Ron Gentry. Members of the Lubbock chapter of the 99's will serve as honorary pallbearers.

The family suggests memorials to the Little People of America Foundation, 4244 Greenvale SW, Grand Rapids, Mich. 49509.

New Horizons

Elizabeth B. Hamilton

August 27, 1900 - February 23, 1982

Elizabeth B. Hamilton, widow of James Linton Hamilton of the Flying H Farm, Charlotte, North Carolina, died at the Wesley Nursing Center.

Mrs. Hamilton was a charter member of the Carolinas Chapter of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. and was very active until just recently. Beloved by many, she will be missed.

Nancy Armstrong

Fort Worth Chapter

Mercedes Chapman Crabtree

Feb. 21, 1928 - Jan. 23, 1982

Mercedes Chapman Crabtree passed on to New Horizons in January, 1982. Mercedes became a Coastal Bend 99 in December, 1977, and from the very first she was an enthusiastic, imaginative and active member. She served as chairman of the Airport Beautification, Membership, and Flying Activities committees, and was currently serving as chapter vice-chairman.

Mercedes, a very gracious and lovely lady, will be greatly missed.

by Vel Morgan

Vern Beardsley Chandler

The B.C. Chapter reports that Vernon B. Chandler, husband of 99 Carole Chandler of North Vancouver, B.C., died suddenly on November 15, 1981 in an aircraft accident at Abbotsford, B.C. The twin-engine plane, piloted by Vern, was apparently doing touch-and-go landings when it went into a spin and plunged out of control. Vern and a passenger were killed and three other passengers survived. All were pilots being checked out on the aircraft. Vern will be greatly missed by those who knew him. He has left behind his wife and four children.

by Barbara Meredith

Josephine Chandler

Josephine Chandler, Treasurer of Tennessee Chapter 99s, died Saturday, Feb. 20th. She was killed in a one-car accident near New Market, Tennessee. Josephine had been a member of the Ninety-Nines since 1965. We will miss Jo so very much.

by Evelyn Bryan Johnson

Sara Friedman

Palisades Chapter extends its deepest sympathy to Blossom Friedman for the loss of her mother, Sara. Even though Sara was not a 99 she was a faithful participant in most of the chapter activities as well as keeping our scrapbook up to date for many years. Many of you must know and remember Sara who travelled many miles with Blossom to Section meetings and International Conventions.

Mary Perryman Kitchens

May 2, 1933 - January 27, 1982

Tall in spirit and enthusiasm, small in stature describes Mary. She was the epitome of example to the handicapped. We never thought of her as handicapped, but as efficient and exceptional. As Little People, Mary and husband Lee soloed their Piper Tri-Pacer N6947B in 1964 on the same day at Highland Park Airport in Dallas. Lee loves to tell the following story:

"Mary was second to solo behind me and fuel indicated below half. Her instructor kept cautioning her to keep the nose down on climb out, due to her light 60 lbs. weight, lack of fuel weight, and fact that he could see all of top of wing from ground, but she still was making 1500 feet per minute."

Mary was born in Lubbock, graduated from Lubbock High School in 1951, while there she was president of one of her

classes. Four years later, in 1955 she graduated from Texas Women's University in Denton with a major in costume and fashion design. Mary designed and made her family's clothes and painted the works of art in their home. On one of her self designed Christmas cards she referred to their children, Alan and Sandra, as "Turbulent Cargo".

In the ten years that the Kitchens owned their Tri-Pacer, 1964-1974, it made many trips across continental U.S. to L.P. conventions and to Lee's family ranch near Menard, Texas. In 1974 they sold their plane and Lee's business as an executive with Texas Instruments took them to Europe until 1976.

Mary was a lifetime member of St. John's Methodist Church, where her parents were charter members. She was a two term national treasurer of Little People of America, and more recently a two term chairman of Lubbock 99s. She was Lubbock's chairman during the 1980 Spring South Central Section meeting and put all data on computer. She originally joined 99s' Dallas Chapter in 1964.

Her family honored 99s and her chapter by letting us say goodbye to her as honorary pallbearers.

by Pat Cantrell

Mary Perryman Kitchens



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26 MARCH 1987

DEAR CANYONITES,

THIS LETTER IS TO SOLICIT YOUR SUPPORT, IN THE FORM OF YOUR VOTE,
IN MY CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR OF RANSOM CANYON.

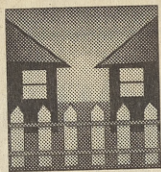
FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT DO NOT KNOW ME, AND/OR ARE NEW TO THE
CANYON, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. I HAVE LIVED IN THE CANYON
SINCE 1978 EXCEPT FOR 19 MONTHS WHEN I WAS EXILED TO HOUSTON. I
SERVED AS ALDERMAN FOR TWO YEARS AND MAYOR-PRO-TEM FOR ONE AND A
HALF YEARS BEFORE GOING TO HOUSTON AND HAVE SERVED AS ALDERMAN
FOR THE PAST YEAR. IN ADDITION, DURING BOTH TERMS OF OFFICE, I
SERVED AS LIAISON TO THE PROPERTY OWNER'S BOARD. THIS HAS GIVEN
ME EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE COLLECTIVE NEEDS OF THE
CANYON.

MY 35 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASPECTS
OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS GIVES ME THE BACKGROUND TO UNDERSTAND AND
COMPREHEND THE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE CANYON.

MY PRESENT POSITION AS A VISITING INDUSTRY PROFESSOR AT TEXAS
TECH, FUNDED BY TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, GIVES ME THE FLEXIBILITY IN
TIME TO ATTEND TO MATTERS AS REQUIRED AND YET PROVIDE PROPER
ATTENTION TO UNIVERSITY NEEDS.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME SHORT, INTERMEDIATE, AND LONG TERM
ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. IN THE SHORT TERM, THE
PROPERTY VALUATIONS, IN RESPECT TO OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS IN LUBBOCK
COUNTY, NEED TO BE MODIFIED DOWN IN KEEPING WITH SIMILAR
PROPERTIES. THE PRESENT VALUATIONS GIVE RISE TO EXCESSIVE TAXES
AS THEY ARE BASED ON HIGHER VALUATIONS PER SQUARE FOOT THAN OTHER
PROPERTIES IN ADDITION TO PENALTIES FOR OUR OUTSTANDING LOCATION.
LOCATION ESCALATION SHOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO THE LOT AND NOT THE
STRUCTURE. WHETHER WE CAN WIN THIS BATTLE OR NOT, WE SHOULD AT
LEAST MAKE A VALID ATTEMPT.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE IN THE SLATON SCHOOL DISTRICT,
SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT THE HIGHER LEVEL OF TAXATION AND
THE POORER LEVEL OF SERVICE. AN EXAMPLE OF THE POOR SERVICE IS
THE COMPARISON OF SCHOOL BUS SERVICE. THE ROOSEVELT SCHOOL BUS
WILL ENTER ALL PARTS OF THE CANYON; REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER,
WHEREAS THE SLATON SCHOOL BUS SOMETIMES FINDS IT MORE DIFFICULT
DURING EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS.



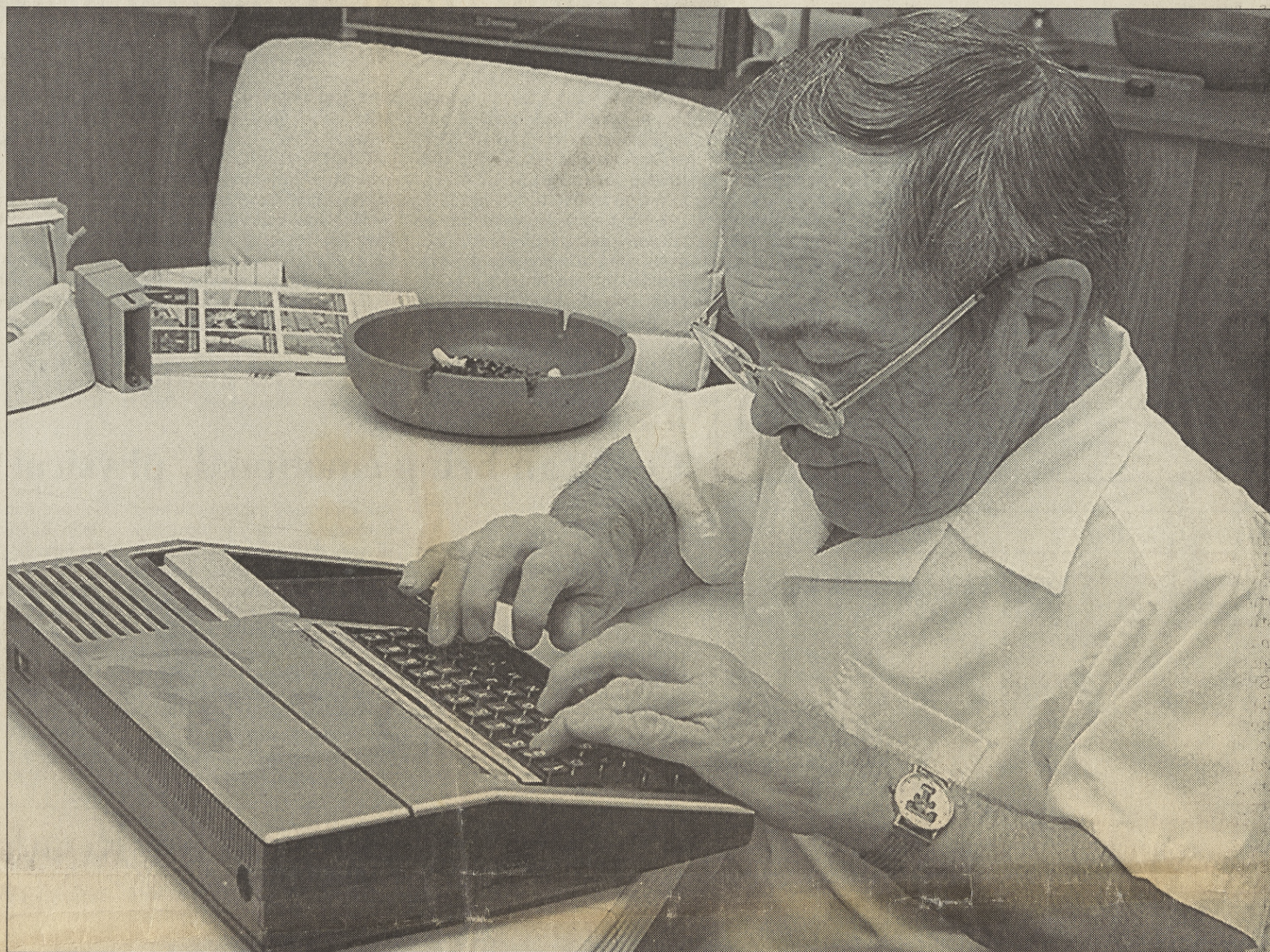
NEIGHBORS

8B

LUBBOCK AVALANCHE-JOURNAL

Tuesday, February 10, 1998

COMPUTER MEMORY



A-J Photo/Ray Westbrook

Lee Kitchens, mayor of Ransom Canyon, still owns a TI 99/4A home computer, which was produced in the early 1980s. The machine has attracted a following of computer buffs in an organization called the SouthWest Ninety-Niners User Group.

Old Texas Instruments computer continues to attract users group 1998

By RAY WESTBROOK

Avalanche-Journal

In the computer age, nostalgia comes quickly.

It was a bare 15 years ago that Texas Instruments was pushing the technology envelope with its 99/4A home computer. The machine was burning up the computing world with three megahertz of speed and zero gigabytes of memory in its hard drive – the TI 99/4A had no hard drive.

And if Texas Instruments officials at Lubbock had known Tom Wills of Tucson, Ariz., they might not have ended production of the 99/4A in October 1983.

"They were very slow," Wills said of the 99/4As. "But at that time they were three times faster than an Apple computer. The Apple computers ran at one megahertz."

Wills is president of an organization called the SouthWest Ninety-Niners User Group. The focal point of their existence as a club is the TI 99/4A.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, the SouthWest Ninety-Niners will gather at Texas Instruments' Lubbock site to remember the glory days of the recent past and to tour a plant that no longer builds home computers.

Texas Instruments does, however, keep one of the computers enshrined in a glass case at its plant.

"Lubbock to us is like Mecca is to Muslims," Wills said. "Because the TI 99/4A was built there, Lubbock has special meaning to us."

He said nostalgic users of the 99/4A will travel to Lubbock from as far away as England and Germany.

"We think of this as a classic computer, kind of like a classic car," Wills explained.

"If you really want to get something done, you use the newer equipment, such as a PC that has Windows 95 and all of that on it. It runs at like 200 megahertz."

"But if we are going to have fun, we go back to our TI's and use those."

The 99/4A came standard with 16 kilobytes of memory, Wills said, which is a diminutive capability compared to even the introductory 16 megabytes of memory often available on basic laptops of today.

"But we could expand them up to 48K," Wills contends.

The original 16K, meaning about 16,000 bytes – or letters – was roughly equivalent to five sheets of typed material.

Memory in today's computers typically is rated in megabytes, with each single number representing 1,000 kilobytes.

And modern hard-drives move into a classification called gigabytes, each of which represents 1,000 times a megabyte, for a total of more than one billion bytes, or letters.

The TI 99/4A had none of that. It captured the imagination of computer enthusiasts with just a keyboard locked into a single console.

Wills, whose group meets every year to share experiences and information about the 99/4A, says the machine is still being used in some businesses and by a lot of home computer buffs. He explains the phenomenon this way:

"Part of it I would have to attribute to the way Texas Instruments made it. They made it so this machine had so much capability that even after they stopped producing it, we were still finding out how much more it could do."

"Every time we thought we had found everything that could be done, somebody would find something else, and we were able to expand upon that. So, it just kept expanding what we could do with it."

According to Wills, the mathematical capabilities of the computer were characterized by phenomenal accuracy.

"We have a company here in town (Tucson) that used to be called Hughes Missile Systems. It was just bought out, but they still use the TI 99/4A to do some of their programming for their missiles because the math capability on it is so accurate."

The users group will be hosted by TI's Lubbock plant from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday, and then will move to the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at 1:30 p.m. for a free-wheeling swap meet that will continue until no one is without replacement parts and new software.

Gabriel Flores, human resources representative for TI at Lubbock, is among those scheduled to welcome the computer operators.

"We are happy that the TI 99/4A users group is kicking off its annual meeting at TI," he said.

"Even though the kickoff is not open to the public, most of the event is being held at the Sheraton, and that is open to the public."

Lee Kitchens, Ransom Canyon mayor, also remembers the 99/4A, and still has one in near-mint condition on a table in his home.

He was manager of engineering for the

consumer operation of TI when the company was building the computer from 1979 through most of 1983.

Knowing its inner workings, he had utmost confidence in the machine. "Oh, yeah. I mean it was the greatest thing since sliced bread."

"The problem with computers in those days was that most of them required some esoteric programming language that nobody understood. But with this thing, you could plug in one of the plug-ins and run a program."

"You could expand the memory, you could put a printer port on it to drive a printer, you could put a serial port on there to put a joy stick on. It had several accessories that were developed over time."

Kitchens remembers the machine sold in its original form of the 99/4 for \$1,150 each. At the end, in its 99/4A version, the machine was being sold for \$49.95. Today, Wills says, the TI 99/4A can sometimes be picked up on the used market for \$10.

Kitchens thinks it has lasted so long because of the manufacturer's near-perfection mentality.

"TI was a stickler for quality. Quality was just an environment. Our heritage was military electronics, so we designed for rugged environments."

Kitchens said the monitors supplied with the 99/4A were built by a television company, and some of the first ones didn't survive shipment.

"Our requirement was that you had to be able to drop that thing, in the box, three feet and open it and it would still work."

Once that packaging flaw was corrected, the 99/4A could be expected to arrive in operating condition.

Hundreds of thousands of the computers were made for the U.S. market.

Kitchens is proud of the work put into the computer, which can still run respectably in a race dominated by the high-speed multi-media versions of today.

"I think we did a heck of a job."

He is going to save his own 99/4A until March of this year.

"The reason I still have one is that I have a granddaughter who will be 3 in March. I am going to set her up with it, so she can get comfortable with the keyboard."

Then there will be a new generation of TI 99/4A users.



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Proportionate Matter



Raising Awareness:
Angie and Ron Giuffre
met through Little Peo-
ple of America in 1989
and will celebrate their
10th wedding anniver-
sary this October.

Senior Games: Willow Glen residents performs well during weekend San Jose event 5



Photograph by Jacqueline Ramseyer

Happy Family: Angie and Ron Giuffre pose for the camera with their two children, Michael, 3, and Christopher, 8.

Attaining Stature

Couple furthers understanding about people of short stature p20

COVER STORY

Ron and Angie Giuffre educate people about those of short stature

By I-CHUN CHE

Photographs by JACQUELINE RAMSEYER



Nice Commodity: A front-loading washing machine has saved Angie Giuffre a lot of headaches in doing her laundry.

Willow Glen resident Ron Giuffre doesn't think being 4 feet 2 inches in height is a form of disability. "I am just different," he says matter-of-factly.

As a case manager for people with disabilities at Agnews Development Center, 3500 Zanker Road, 39-year-old Ron feels he can better understand people's needs because of his own experience.

"Maybe because I am different in terms of stature, I want to help people of differences," Ron said.

When he was a baby Ron was diagnosed with achondroplasia, a disorder that prevents the proper growth of cartilage. Of the approximately 250 syndromes that cause short stature, achondroplasia is the most common, although still rare at one in 26,000 births.

The diagnosis came as a surprise to Ron's average-height parents and three older siblings.

"My mother was worried because she didn't have much understanding of dwarfism," Ron said. "But with her faith in God, she knew everything would be OK."

Ron's parents later learned that achondroplasia is a spontaneous genetic mutation that causes the shortening of all long bones. Eighty-five percent of children with achondroplasia are born to parents of average height; only 15 percent of cases are the result of heredity.

His parents didn't treat Ron preferentially but were very supportive and taught

him to ignore those who made fun of him. "If people ridicule or hackle me, they have to deal with it themselves," Ron said. "That doesn't bother me."

Despite his upbeat spirits, being a dwarf isn't easy.

Ron had to install a pedal extension in his Honda Accord. He has to have his shirts and pants altered. He has to climb onto a chair and in most cases, his legs swing in the air. He also has to pray the sinks in public restrooms are low enough to reach.

These challenges are, at best, inconveniences for him, he said, but there are some things one just gets used to. What was most difficult for him was finding his identity.

"It is very hard to find your identity when you are different from everybody else," Ron said.

In 1988, to meet other people of short stature, Ron joined the Bay Area chapter of Little People of America, Inc. (LPA).

LPA is a nonprofit organization that provides social services, career counseling and medical information to people of short stature and their families. Membership is offered to people who are no taller than 4 feet 10 inches in height, as well as their relatives and medical professionals who work with individuals of short stature.

Since its establishment by actor Billy Bart in 1957, LPA has become the world's largest organization devoted to short-stature people, with more than 6,000 members worldwide. The Bay Area chapter has about 200 active members.

In the LPA gatherings, Ron found not

only his identity but also his wife, Angie.

"It was love at first sight," Angie, 40, said with a broad smile. "We had a lot in common."

Like Ron, Angie was born into an average-size family and was diagnosed with achondroplasia. Both have characteristics of achondroplastic dwarfs: short limbs, a moderately large head, an average-size trunk, a flattened nasal bridge, bowed legs and short-fingered, trident-shaped hands. Besides their physical similarities, both had a hard time assimilating into an average-size world before truly accepting themselves.

Angie, who is 4 feet 4 inches high, said she realized she was different at the age of 5 when some of her classmates teased her and called her 'midget.' Although her brothers would protect her, Angie learned to stand up for herself.

"I soon became thick-skinned," Angie said. "If you let everything bother you, you are not going to survive. Just put a smile on your face and hang on."

Her greatest challenge was finding a date. "Everyone has physical and emotional needs," Angie said. "I felt left out when my friends were having dates and I had no boyfriends."

But although LPA meetings are good social venues, Angie didn't want to join the organization.

"I was in self-denial," Angie said. "I thought I was doing okay on my own until my friends started to get married and have families."

Angie joined the LPA in 1988 and mar-

ried Ron four years later. They have two children, Christopher, 8, and Michael, 4.

The couple bought their house on Cheryl Way in 1995.

They didn't remodel the house much except to install a bathroom mirror several inches lower. They can stand on a stool to use the stove. And a Frigidaire washing machine with a door that opens in the front saves them the effort of digging into a top-loading washing machine.

Overall, their house is not much different from any other house in Willow Glen. A green wooden door in the front yard gives the one-story house a warm touch.

"I want to raise my children in Willow Glen," said Ron, who was born and grew up in the area. "Willow Glen hasn't changed much in terms of family values."

But Ron and Angie knew that they were taking a chance to have children.

When Angie was pregnant with Christopher, the couple had mixed feelings about the new life. They were not worried the baby might be a dwarf but were afraid it would die.

As achondroplastic dwarfs, both carry one "average-size" gene and one dwarfism gene in a particular location. As such there is a 50 percent chance that the child will inherit one of each gene and therefore be an achondroplastic dwarf like his or her parents, since the dwarfism gene is dominant.

However, there is a one-in-four chance that the baby will inherit both dwarfism genes, and in that case, the child dies at birth or shortly thereafter. No child with this form of disorder has ever survived longer than two years.

Thanks to modern technology, however, the couple was relieved to see a healthy, average-size baby on the ultrasound screen.

But when Angie was pregnant with Michael, she was even more worried. She was 37. Women over 35 have higher chances of giving birth to babies with birth defects and Down Syndrome.

Angie underwent many medical tests, including amniocentesis, to make sure the baby was healthy.

Michael seemed perfectly healthy when he was born, but the doctor soon found that the boy had a ventricular septal defect, which left an opening between the lower two chambers of his heart. The newborn also had coarctation of the aorta, a condition in which the main artery that carries blood from the heart to the body is pinched or constricted.

When he was only 8 days old, Michael underwent surgery at Stanford Hospital. Today the only sign of the complicated surgery is a faint scar below his left shoulder blade.

Two weeks ago was his regular heart checkup, and everything still seems fine. Now Ron and Angie just wish their 3-year-old boy was not so energetic.

In the evenings, neighbors can often see Ron ride his bike scooter to follow Christopher on his giant bicycle and Michael on his red tricycle. Sometimes they stop to chat with neighbors. Sometimes they stop to observe a bug Michael finds in the meadow. From a distance, they look like a gang of three children giggling and having fun.

Christopher is now the tallest one in the family. When his friends ask him why his parents are short, Christopher always replies, "That's how God made my parents."

Angie and Ron will celebrate their 10th anniversary in October. They plan a nice weekend alone in Reno.

"I am really lucky to have a nice husband and two good boys," Angie said. "I am short-stature. But I am also a mother, a wife, a worker and a friend."